

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

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Ex-CUC board chair gets 6 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero was slapped yesterday with a six-year prison term that he will serve without the possibility of parole, for 11 charges related to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

"This is a case where the best interests of justice and of this society will be best served by imposing a jail term that the court believes will have a deterrent effect on the life of the defendant upon his release, and more important, on those potential offenders, and will serve as the retribution that society demands," Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said at the sentencing.

Wiseman said the victim's version of what happened as well as the traumatic effect it has had and will continue to have on her is of great concern to the court and to the community because it will most likely affect her for a long time.

Guerrero, 63, was given credit for one day time-served. He will start serving his sentence on Dec. 1, 2013. He is

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AG seeks Tinian mayor seat

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas marked his first year in office yesterday by confirming that he will run in the November 2014 Tinian mayoralty race, but with an abundance of caution that included seeking—and receiving—guidance from the Office of the Public

Auditor on how he should conduct himself as AG to avoid violating ethics laws and rules.

Days before granting media interview on his political candidacy, San Nicolas sought the OPA's guidance in the matter.

He also issued an Oct. 23 memo to all employees of the

Office of the Attorney General "to avoid actual conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest" while he's serving as the CNMI's highest law enforcement officer.

San Nicolas said he has been considering running for Tinian mayor rather than as an attorney general for some time now.

The CNMI will elect its attorney general for the first time in November

2014.

San Nicolas said from the start, he's not a fan of an elected AG. But just the same, he respects and wishes the best for those running as AG next year.

On Friday night at Pacific Is-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas answers questions from reporters yesterday about a host of issues, including his intention to seek election as mayor of Tinian in the November 2014 elections.

Manglona sworn into office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos administered the oath of office yesterday to Sen. Paul A. Man-

glona (Ind-Rota) to fill a vacancy that former senator Juan M. Ayuyu left, a few hours after separately affirming Sen. Joaquin Borja's (Ind-Tinian) appointment for being the second highest vote get-

ter in the 2012 race just as he was in the 2009 elections.

A Supreme Court opinion on Thursday paved the way for Manglona's appointment for being the second highest vote getter in the 2012 Rota senatorial race.

The court opinion also paved the way for Borja's appointment to be affirmed,

since he was the second highest vote getter in both the 2009 and 2012 races.

Borja, who is filling the vacancy left by now Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, was absent from yesterday's session. He could be sworn in during the Senate's next session.

It's the first time in about a year that the Senate has full nine members.

Inos, who became governor on Feb. 20 when former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate, said that Manglona's appointment and swearing in gives Rota full representation in the Senate once again.

"It shows that the process is working. I know we've been through several close to what might be called constitutional crisis, we've been able to overcome that. I think we've come to a point where we've reached political maturity, and this is what I guess what the framers of the constitution provided. We're basically implementing it. I'm happy with the way things are going," the governor told reporters shortly after the swearing-in.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, administers the oath of office to Paul A. Manglona, second from left, as a member of the 18th Senate during a Senate session break on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, days after a Supreme Court decision that paved the way for Manglona's appointment to fill the vacancy left by former senator Juan M. Ayuyu. Looking on are Manglona's wife Lydia, left, and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, right.

Local

Hospital to lose its orthopedic surgeon this month

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center will once more operate without an orthopedic surgeon beginning end of this month following disclosure that the short-term physician the Common-

wealth Healthcare Corp. hired from abroad will end his tenure next week.

Dr. Grant Walker confirmed yesterday his exit from the hospital on Nov. 27, the last day of his contract. Walker was recruited from Idaho and arrived on island last Oct. 23.

He said his one-month contract with CHC had been arranged even before he came to Saipan. He said he was invited and convinced by a fellow CHC doctor to serve its orthopedic department. He is paid \$185,000 per annum.

Walker, however, will remain

on island and will practice in the private sector. *Saipan Tribune* learned that he will return to the CNMI after Christmas and will work with Dr. Norma Ada and Dr. Tony Stearns.

When asked what motivated him to stay, he said: "The public has made such a welcoming

impact that I have fallen in love with the people." Walker said he feels he can best serve the public by way of the private sector.

Despite his short stint at the public hospital, he said the experience has inspired him. He lauded the dedication of CHC staff and its nurses, whom he described as among the best he has worked with in many years of practice.

Despite not having a replacement yet at CHC, he said he has not received an offer of extension of his contract so he made the decision to stay just so he could continue providing his services.

"I used to concentrate my practice on spine surgery and in my best years, I earned \$750,000. But at the end of the

See **HOSPITAL** on Page 4

CUC formulating legal strategy, disagrees with SDLLC lawsuit

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is ready to do battle in court against Saipan Development LLC, according to its executive director, Alan Fletcher.

In fact, Fletcher said, they are in the process of preparing for the lawsuit.

"CUC is currently formulating its legal strategy. Obviously, we disagree with the suit," Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune*.

Also, Fletcher said, CUC has asked the Superior Court to declare the SDLLC power purchase agreement invalid and is anxiously awaiting the court's decision.

SDLLC, the Delaware-based contractor of the \$190.8 million power purchase agreement it signed with former governor

Benigno R. Fitial, sued CUC in federal court on Nov. 7 over the voided agreement. Citing breach of contract and implied-in-fact contract, SDLLC is claiming damages for its reliance on CUC's promise and the amount it spent while evaluating, negotiating, and preparing to perform under the PPA to build a power plant.

SDLLC and Fitial, on behalf of CUC, signed the PPA on Aug. 3, 2012. That same day, former attorney general Edward Buckingham signed the deal, approving it as to form and legal capacity.

However on Jan. 4, 2013, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas sent a letter to SDLLC claiming that his predecessor, Buckingham, had erred in indicating the PPA and related agreements were sufficient as

to form and legal capacity. He determined that the PPA and related agreements were void from the beginning.

Fitial was impeached by the House of Representatives early this year for corruption, neglect of duty and felony over a host of issues that included the signing of the sole-source PPA with SDLLC.

Rate petition

Meantime, CUC, through counsel James Sirok, formally withdrew yesterday the agency's emergency petition to increase its power rates.

In this withdrawn petition, CUC had sought a power rate surcharge for five months to cover the \$1.84 million funding shortfall for its pipeline project.

"At the time of filing the emergency petition, CUC has

been able to obtain grant funding for pipeline construction in the amount of \$4.7 million. This, however, left a shortfall of \$1.84 million. Further, CUC could not risk to be found in contempt of the U.S. District Court's order if it did not perform under the order," stated the CUC's notice of with-

drawal to the CPUC.

Sirok stated that despite CUC's best efforts to discover and secure funding to cover the shortfall prior to the filing of the emergency petition, it became clear to CUC that it had no other source of income or working capital to comply with the court order other than its rates.

It was only on Nov. 16, ac-

cording to Sirok, that CUC succeeded in obtaining approval for the use of some grant funds that, in turn, now allows CUC to cover the shortfall and meet its obligations to the court order.

Despite the petition's withdrawal of petition, the CPUC is expected to act on other CUC proposals at a rate hearing next month.

Ex-cop in brutality case found liable to pay \$50K in damages

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has found former police officer Francisco "Frankie" Sablan Pangelinan liable to pay \$50,491 in damages, attorney's fees, and court costs to two security guards that he falsely arrested and sprayed with pepper mace.

In a default judgment issued Monday, Manglona ruled that there was no lawful reason for Pangelinan's excessive use of force.

The judge found that security guards Felipe Kalen and Alafanso A. Kintin have presented enough evidence for the court to enter judgment for Kalen against Pangelinan on his claims for use of excessive force and for false arrest, battery by use of mace and handcuffing, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The plaintiffs were also found to have presented sufficient evidence for the court to enter a judgment for Kintin against the defendant on his claims for use of excessive force and battery by use of mace.

Kalen and Kintin were awarded minimal compensatory and punitive damages in the total amount of \$30,000 and \$15,000 respectively for all claims. The plaintiffs were also awarded \$5,091 in attorney's fees and \$400 in costs.

Kalen and Kintin, through

counsel Timothy Bellas, filed the police brutality lawsuit in July 2012 against Pangelinan and the CNMI government.

According to Bellas in the complaint, on July 26, 2010, in western Garapan, Pangelinan sprayed the eyes of Kalen and Kintin with pepper mace, despite the two having committed no criminal acts or posing no threat to the armed police officers.

Kalen and Kintin, both security guards, at the time were assigned in the vicinity of the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, Saipan.

According to the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, Kalen saw several women in the area grabbing passing tourists in order to entice them into a massage parlor.

Kalen warned a "mama-san" who was among the women that their activities were unlawful. "Mama-san" then called then-police officer Pangelinan on her cell phone.

After parking his police vehicle, Pangelinan confronted Kalen and told him that it was he who is loitering and ordered him, Kintin, and a third guard to leave the area or they would be arrested.

Kalen left to go to the Koban office, a police post in Garapan, to file a complaint about the loitering by "Mama-san" and her employees.

Later, Kalen returned to the area and instructed Kintin and the other guard to withdraw to avoid any further confrontation

with Pangelinan.

While Kalen and Kintin were talking to two other police officers about what had happened, Pangelinan barged between the two officers and maced the guards in the face.

Pangelinan then handcuffed Kalen and, instead of placing him inside the police car, he left Kalen standing next to the police vehicle for about 10 minutes, in front of "Mama-san" and her employees.

Kalen could hear them laughing as he stood there in handcuffs and with tears streaming down his face from the mace. Pangelinan eventually brought Kalen to the Department of Public Safety, where the guard was processed and remained in jail overnight. The following morning, a detective released Kalen from custody as there were no charges.

In Kintin's case, an ambulance brought him to the hospital where he was treated and discharged within two hours.

The CNMI government was dismissed from the lawsuit after it settled with the plaintiffs.

The federal court's clerk of court entered a default judgment against Pangelinan on Dec. 21, 2012, for not answering the lawsuit. The court then conducted an evidentiary hearing in support of the entry of default judgment on Sept. 27, 2013.

The plaintiffs testified at the hearing.

In the criminal case, Pangelinan pleaded guilty to the use of excessive force on Kalen. In April 2013, Manglona imposed on him a sentence of two and a half days time-served.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free business workshop
The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents the free workshop called "Start and Added Value Product" on Nov. 29, 2013, from 10am-12pm, at the Commonwealth Development Author-

ity Bldg., first floor, San Jose. Please call for pre-registration (670) 664-3018, or visit www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

MHS PTA meeting on Thursday

All Marianas High School

parents, guardians, and students are urged to attend the MHS PTA meeting this Thursday Nov. 21, at 6pm in the Dolphin Theater. We will get an update on MHS events and discuss school improvements. (MHS)

Visitor arrivals in October up 19 percent

The October 2013 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands jumped 19 percent compared to October 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 31,886 visitors in October 2013 compared to 26,767 in October 2012.

Arrivals from Japan dropped

15 percent in October to 8,067 visitors. Delta Air Lines reduced their night flight DL288 from daily service to five times a week effective Oct. 1 through Dec. 23. The 15-percent decline of air seat supply from Narita impacted the Japanese market quite heavily. In addition, the depreciation of the Japanese yen by 26 percent over the past year

versus the U.S. dollar has made travel to the CNMI for Japanese 26 percent more expensive than last year, resulting in a steep increase in the price of tour packages from the "Kamiki" season, which started Oct. 1 and significantly impacting outbound travel from Japan to price-sensitive destinations such as the CNMI.

Meanwhile, arrivals from Korea soared 40 percent in October to 11,381 visitors, more than any other source market. Korean arrivals are projected to continue rising rapidly with the announcement of a new airline launching service from Korea to the NMI. Dynamic Airways launched new flights from Seoul to Saipan starting Oct. 30, flying twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays and adding

another 21,000 annual seats out of the Korean market.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China jumped 31 percent in October to 8,999 visitors. Continued rapid growth is projected out of the China market for the remainder of this year. The MVA continues to support the new airlift out of the China market, launching promotions in China's southwest region, with a major booth at China International Travel Mart, China's most influential travel show on Oct. 24-28.

Finally, arrivals from Russia increased 65 percent to 772. Last month the MVA announced the appointment of AVIAREPS as its marketing representative in Russia, with a team of three in Moscow and a team of two

in MVA's Vladivostok office, targeting the rapidly growing East Russia Market. The Russia team will be working closely with AVIACHARTERS and Asiana Airlines to boost traffic out of the East Russia market on direct non-stop flights out of the region to the CNMI and on one-stop flights to the CNMI via Seoul.

Economic highlights

In October, Japan's Cabinet Office maintained its assessment that "the Japanese economy is on the way to recovery at a moderate pace." The yen appreciated against the U.S. dollar driven by the government shutdown; as of Oct. 25, exchange rates stood at 97.3 yen to the dollar.

Korea's economy has shown signs of moving into a recovery phase, with gross domes-

tic product growing for a third consecutive quarter in the July-September period and projected to post 2.9 percent growth for the year. The growth rate is expected to rise further next year, to between 3.2 percent and 4 percent according to economist forecasts.

China's National Bureau of Statistics reported China's GDP grew 7.8 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, snapping two quarters of slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy. China's new Tourism Law came into effective on Oct. 1, forbidding levying of extra costs during tours. Individual travel trips therefore became more prevalent than group tours during Golden Week than in the past, according to China's National Tourism Administration. (MVA)

ASSERTING IMMUNITY FROM LAWSUIT

OAG asks fed court to dismiss Taisague suit vs Inos, Finance

Asserting that Gov. Eloy S. Inos is immune from lawsuit, the Office of the Attorney General asked the federal court to dismiss the claim against Inos in a lawsuit filed by retiree Jesus I. Taisague.

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss all claims against the Department of Finance. Patel argued that Finance is not a proper party in the lawsuit.

For his part, Taisague, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the court to order Inos and Finance to be temporarily prevented from failing to pay any pension and health insurance coverage due him, while his lawsuit remains pending.

Taisague is suing Inos, the CNMI government, Finance, and the Fund for entering into a settlement agreement with Betty Johnson that, according to him, is unconstitutional and illegal.

In the government's motion to dismiss, Patel said the court should dismiss the claim of deprivation of rights against Inos because state officials have qualified immunity.

Patel said the doctrine of qualified immunity shields the governor from the lawsuit.

Citing case law, Patel said that government officials, when

performing discretionary functions, are entitled to the protection of qualified immunity, through which they are "shielded from liability for civil damages insofar as their conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known."

In the claims against Finance and Fund, Patel said the two agencies are also immune from suit, being arms of the Commonwealth.

Patel said most CNMI government agencies are line agencies of the Executive Branch.

"They do not have the capacity to sue or be sued," she pointed out.

In Taisague's reply, Quichocho asserted that his client is likely to succeed on the merits because the defendants' failure to pay his pension and provide health insurance coverage violate the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions and laws.

Quichocho also pointed out that the defendants admit that the Member Home Loan Program account has sufficient amount for Taisague to "readily collect" from.

"Hence, the government admits that it has money to pay plaintiff Taisague's constitutional entitlement, but it just does not want to," the lawyer said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

NMC hosts Drive-In Movie Night on Saipan and Rota

The Northern Marianas College's College Access Challenge Grant program will be hosting a Drive-In Movie Night on Saipan this Friday, Nov. 22, and on Rota on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2013.

The event will feature the film *The Wolverine* at 6:30pm and the film *Elysium* at 9:30pm. It will take place at the NMC South Field (across from the NMC Gymnasium) on Saipan and at the Liyo Baseball Field on Rota.

In addition to showing films, pre-movie activities will include a brief presentation about preparing for college (college success, student life, financial aid, and time and money management, etc.).

The fun-filled event is free

and open to the public. There will be space reserved for those who wish to bring their vehicles to the event, as well as seats reserved for those who choose not to. Space is limited and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Refreshments and snacks will also be sold by vendors at the events.

Please note that the film *The Wolverine* is rated PG-13, which means that minors under the age of 13 must be accompanied by parents or guardians. The film *Elysium* is rated R, which means that minors under the age of 17 must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

For more information or inquiries, contact Hedwig Hofschneider at (670) 237-6784 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

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Obamacare provisions delayed but CNMI seeks clarifications

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama's announcement on Thursday allowing insurance companies to keep individual customers on their existing plans for an additional year—even if the plans don't meet Obamacare's standards—may have given the CNMI some breathing room or more time to implement certain provisions of the law. But the Inos administration, as of yesterday, is seeking further clarification.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos just came back from the U.S. Virgin Islands and said he has yet to see the latest update on Obamacare.

Obama is under heavy pressure to fix the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare.

On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services wrote a letter to U.S. states and territories' insurance commissioners, allowing health insurance issuers to "continue coverage that would otherwise be terminated or cancelled" on or after Jan. 1, 2014.

Affected individuals and small businesses may choose to re-enroll in such coverage.

DHHS' letter came weeks after Inos wrote two letters to U.S. Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius: one on Oct. 21 informing the agency that the CNMI has elected not to participate in

a Health Insurance Exchange program under ACA, and the second on Oct. 23, requesting an extension for the ACA market reform and Essential Health Benefit plan.

The governor has yet to receive responses to his October letters.

Inos said the CNMI is ill-prepared to implement the standards that ACA requires.

Obama's announcement on Thursday might just be the reprieve that the CNMI needs at this time.

On Oct. 16, the U.S. territories' request for flexibility in the implementation of ACA provisions was contained in a letter from the National Association

of Insurance Commissioners.

Significant questions remain about how the ACA's implementation will affect consumers and insurance markets in the U.S. territories of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Though the statute itself is unclear, DHHS has determined that the ACA's market reforms will apply to health insurance coverage sold in the U.S. territories.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said much of Obamacare does not apply in the CNMI.

CNMI employers, for example, don't have to buy health insurance for workers.

Individuals in the CNMI are also not required to buy insur-

ance. There are no tax penalties either.

Sablan said given the issues the healthcare rollout has been,

he's glad the CNMI is not involved. But in the long run, the CNMI may want to get on board, he said.

HOSPITAL

From Page 2

day, you will realize that life isn't about money but helping those who need it. If I can help one individual, maybe someday I am fortunate enough that someone would help me if I need help," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

CHC has had no permanent orthopedic surgeon since last year after Dr. Ruben Arafiles quit and moved to a Guam hospital.

In Walker's opinion, there's a need for the island to have at

least one orthopedic surgeon. In his short stay at CHC, Walker said he was able to see 15-20 patients in a half-day of service at the CHC every day. Per week, he performed about six to nine surgeries, too.

The hiring of a permanent, full time orthopedic surgeon at the CHC is being weighed, depending on the volume of patients that need the service. In previous CHCC board meetings, officials disclosed that with the numbers on hand, it is hard to justify the need for a full time orthopedic surgeon.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

At 4:08pm yesterday, the Senate, led by President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), adopted a credentials committee report that essentially confirms Manglona's appointment to the Senate.

Minutes later, the governor, along with the lieutenant governor, swore in Manglona.

Manglona was the longest serving lawmaker with 25 years under his belt, and three of those terms were served as Senate president, until he lost a re-election bid in 2012.

At around 4:15pm, Manglona was already part of the Senate roll call. In his brief remarks, Manglona pledged his full support and commitment to the Senate and House in working on the many pressing matters facing the Commonwealth.

He later reiterated his focus on economic development and restoring most if not all of

the 25-percent cut in pension among retirees.

Besides thanking the governor and the lieutenant governor, Manglona also recognized his wife Lydia, who was in the Senate chamber as well.

Manglona also thanked Chief Justice Alexandro Castro and his panel members for deciding on a certified question whether the "last election" means the 2009 or the 2012 race, for purposes of appointing a senator to fill a vacancy in the Senate.

"On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth and Rota in particular, I would like to extend our appreciation and deep respect to Chief Justice Castro and the members of his panel for their expeditious action in resolving the Senate vacancy certified question before them. I know the people of the Commonwealth want to move forward and this Senate in particular wants to proceed with the many pressing matters before it, so I thank

them..." Manglona said.

Borja's appointment

The governor, in his letter yesterday to the Senate president regarding Borja's appointment, said in light of the Supreme Court's recent opinion, he should have appointed the one with the next largest number of votes in the 2012 election.

"However, because Mr. Borja also received the next largest votes in the 2012 election, his appointment remains valid. This letter services to affirm that he was properly appointed to fill the vacancy in the Senate because he received the next largest number of votes in the 2012 election," Inos told Torres.

Lawmakers said it would have been a different name had the second highest vote getter in the 2009 and 2012 Tinian senatorial races were two different persons.

At 4:19pm yesterday, the Senate adopted a credentials committee report, essentially confirming Borja's appointment

to the Senate.

Besides Sen. Joaquin Borja, the only other senator absent at yesterday's session was Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota). The other senators present besides Torres and Manglona were vice president Victor Hocog (R-Rota), floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Sens. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian).

The 2pm scheduled Senate session didn't start until 2:59pm. However, only minutes into the session, the president called for a recess for the credentials committee to come up with a report.

The session resumed at 4:04pm, with the governor, lieutenant governor, Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, and other Cabinet members, House members, and members of the community in the gallery.

The Senate did not act on any bill or resolution. The president said the next session may be held on Tuesday.

AG

From Page 1

lands Club in San Antonio, San Nicolas held a fundraiser for his mayoralty candidacy.

"It is no secret I have decided to toss my hat into the ring. I was very humbled last Friday when several of my friends and relatives and members of the business community came together in support of me and my fundraising at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio," San Nicolas told reporters yesterday morning.

Ethics guidance

On Oct. 17, San Nicolas wrote Public Auditor Mike Pai to seek further guidance from the Office of the Public Auditor as to how he should conduct himself as AG under the Government Ethics Act and any other statute or regulation under OPA's jurisdiction.

San Nicolas' predecessor, former attorney general Edward Buckingham, became mired in controversy after allegedly hosting a political campaign and using government resources for a political campaign, among

other things. These were in addition to other criminal charges that were almost the same as the articles of impeachment filed against former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Pai, in a Nov. 12 letter to San Nicolas, addressed the AG's concerns and provided general guidance as to some steps he can implement to ensure his compliance with 1 CMC Section 8534.

This particular provision generally prohibits public officials and public employees from using public funds, time, personnel, or equipment for political or campaign activity.

"To ensure that your actions are beyond question, we would recommend that you do not engage in any 'political or campaign' activity during business hours, while you are acting in the capacity as the attorney general," Pai said in his two-page letter.

Pai also said the AG should not engage in any "political or campaign" activity in or from the physical offices of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. He's also advised not to use OAG equipment such as computers, phones, fax, among

other things, to conduct any "campaign activity."

"The more separation between you as the attorney general and you as a political candidate you can construct, the less chance you are running afoul of Section 8534's prohibition," Pai said.

Recusal

Pai told San Nicolas that since the OAG has concomitant jurisdiction over the investigation and prosecution of violations of CNMI election laws, he should consider recusing himself from any and all investigations or prosecutions of the same.

The AG should also inform his superior, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, that he has recused himself from such matters.

He is also advised to direct any inquiries regarding election matters to the person or persons he designates.

In his Oct. 17 letter, San Nicolas told the public auditor that he already plans to remove himself from any matters that involve the OAG and the mayor of Tinian and the municipality of Tinian.

San Nicolas said he also intends to take a leave of absence

from his position as AG upon the Commonwealth Election Commission's certification of his candidacy for public office.

'Student of NMI history'

San Nicolas said serving as the CNMI attorney general has many challenges, but there are also rewards along the way.

He said events in his one-year stint have shown that the CNMI Constitution works—whether it be the impeachment process, filling a vacancy in the Senate, or government officials' authority to enter into agreements.

"My point is, I'm fortunate to be where I am right now, observing all of these things. I'm a student of NMI history. It's a privilege to be an AG when we're struggling with issues of impeachment, or struggling with issues of vacancy appointment," he told reporters.

He said he is only the holder and the face of the Office of the Attorney General, but the office is really made up of attorneys, investigators, and staff.

San Nicolas also expressed thanks to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Cabinet.

Several letters of support

were also submitted in court by family, friends, and Guerrero's business associates. The letters describe Guerrero as being helpful, kind, considerate, and contributing to the welfare of those related or associated with him.

Several of Guerrero's family members, relatives and friends were at the sentencing.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown recommended a full maximum sentence of seven-and-a-half years in prison without parole. Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Guerrero, recommended probation with no jail time and/or a suspended sentence. The Office of Adult Probation recommended a six-year sentence.

In sentencing the defendant, Wiseman noted that Guerrero has refused to accept responsibility for his crime nor showed any remorse, "which is his prerogative."

Wiseman said that Guerrero's opinion of the justice system is immaterial and totally irrelevant to the proceeding.

"If defendant does not like our justice system, he should have tried to change it; howev-

er, it is not a factor that the court

can or will consider at this sentencing hearing," the judge said.

Wiseman said the trial was

the time for Guerrero to take the witness stand, take the oath, and tell his story. He said Guerrero had the opportunity to do so, but he chose not to, which was also his right.

The judge pointed out that a sentencing hearing is not the time or place to try to convince the court that a defendant did not commit the crimes he had been convicted of.

Wiseman said that, in contrast to Guerrero's statement of denial, some of his supporters, in their support letters, made statements indicating that he had already accepted responsibility and expressed remorse.

"A genuine recognition of the impact of the crime on the victim and remorse are very important to this court; however, such was absent," he noted.

Wiseman said all the praises of Guerrero's character do not translate into making him immune from being a child molester with respect to the crime he's been convicted of.

"Sentencing is not really what is good for the defendant, but rather what is best for the community, and in particular, the safety of our children, in the sense that such crimes against our children be deterred from occurring," he said.

Wiseman said Guerrero began sexually molesting the now 17-year-old girl in 2010 when she was in the 9th grade and continued doing so up to May 2012 in five different occasions.

Wiseman said the defendant should have protected the girl, but instead chose to take advantage of the victim's vulnerability for his own sexual gratification, subjecting her to shame, ridicule, and stress.

The judge said public laws represent the will and sentiment of the people of the community and when it comes to sexual abuse of a minor, they have spoken loud and clear, with harsh sentences.

"Our society has declared a campaign against child abuse and this court supports such campaign as it is not an activity that is or can be a part of this society's traditions," Wiseman said.

IT&E, Red Cross tie up for typhoon relief efforts

While the Republic of the Philippines directs rescue and recovery efforts in the areas most affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, IT&E is doing its part to support the victims of the world's strongest storm on record.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, IT&E is partnering with the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross for a 12-hour telephone drive to raise funds for the Philippine relief effort.

From 8am to 8pm, people wishing to make a donation may do so by calling 682-4ITE (4483), where IT&E operators will be standing by

to take credit card donations over the phone. IT&E subscribers may also call in to add their donation to their monthly IT&E bill.

Residents who wish to make a donation by check or cash may visit the Marianas Business Plaza from 8am to 4pm where IT&E volunteers will be accepting donations under the large IT&E tent.

According to IT&E CNMI managing director Rose Soledad, the phone drive is just one of the ways that the regional communications leader is contributing to the relief efforts.

"This Saturday will be our

biggest single-day push to raise funds, but we have additional programs in place to continue our efforts through the end of the month," she said.

Now through Saturday, Nov. 30, IT&E will contribute 5 percent of all RockIT prepaid cards purchased at IT&E locations to the American Red Cross. IT&E locations include IT&E Chalan Laulau and the Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Saipan, as well as IT&E stores in Tinian and Rota.

Donations may also be made through IT&E's text messaging service. Now through the end of the month, IT&E sub-

scribers may text the amount of their donation (either \$1, \$5 or \$10) to 4357, and the amount will either be deducted from their prepaid load or added to their monthly post-

paid bill.

IT&E has also partnered with sister company, IP&E, to donate \$0.05 per gallon from every fuel purchase in the CNMI and Guam throughout

the rest of the month.

For more information about how you can contribute to the typhoon relief efforts, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483). **(IT&E)**

Guam Navy donates to Haiyan victims



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

Philippine Consul General Bayani Mangibin, left, thanks Lt. Cmdr. Rean Enriquez, U.S. Naval Base Guam command chaplain, Command Master Chief Roger Schneider and Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Dean Sayre, of USS Frank Cable, for donations made at the Philippine Consulate General in Tamuning, Guam Nov. 19.

By **JESSE LEON GUERRERO**
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TAMUNING, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam and USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) made a donation to the Philippine Red Cross at the Philippine Consulate General in Tamuning, Guam on Nov. 19 to support relief efforts to those affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan.

NBG Chapel parishioners donated \$3,187 and *Frank Cable's* Chief Petty Officer Association donated more than \$1,165, which was presented to Philippine Consul General Bayani Mangibin.

"We would like to show our care for our brothers and sisters affected by the typhoon, not only through our prayers but also these donations," said NBG Command Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Rean Enriquez. "It is the overwhelming support and generosity of the community that is shown by this amount collected in one day."

Enriquez said the chapel's donations were collected during services held the previous Sunday. Both Catholic and Protestant parishioners contributed.

The super typhoon had a massive effect on islands in the Philippines' Visayas region, with nearly 4,000 deaths recorded to date and thousands more injured or missing. Homes were flattened, businesses destroyed, and a lack of food and potable water has been a growing concern for relief workers.

"There's nothing small about these donations," Mangibin said. "They will be a source of inspiration and a source of joy for those who will be receiving it."

For Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Dean Sayre, USS *Frank Cable*, the donation was personal for him as he has friends and family in the Philippines. "Being in the military you're an ambassador everywhere you go," he said. "In foreign ports, in U.S. territories and throughout the world, our presence is very important not just for wartime efforts, but mainly for helping out people. The military is known for helping out people and we want to continue that legacy."

For more information about donations, contact the Philippine Consulate General at

646-4620 or the NBG Chapel at 339-2126.

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Manha Pie, Custard Pie, Apple Pie, Lemon Pie, Coconut Custard Pie, Chocolate Cream Pie, Apple Crunch Pie....

Refrigerated Cheese Cake, Baked Cheese Cake, Strawberry Swirl Cheese Cake....

We also have rolls available—Whole Wheat, Sourdough or Plain.

Also available: Pumpkin Roll and Pumpkin Cheese Cake.

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EPA awards over \$30 million to the Pacific territories

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded over \$30 million as part of a yearly program that provides grants to Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa for use in continuing environmental protection work and for improvements to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

"EPA's funding enables the islands to advance their goals in the pursuit of clean air, water and land," said Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator for the Pacific South-

west. "As one example, the investment made in leak detection projects in all three territories has dramatically reduced drinking water losses, and saved over \$1 million in energy costs."

Guam EPA will be receiving \$3.2 million, CNMI Division of Environmental Quality will be receiving \$1.7 million, and the American Samoa EPA \$1.8 million to support the operations of each environmental agency. The work done by the agencies include inspections, monitoring the safety of beaches and drinking water, permit writing, enforcement and other facets of

their environmental protection programs.

Additionally, EPA provides drinking water and wastewater construction grants to improve the water supplies in each of the territories. The Guam Waterworks Authority will be receiving \$8.2 million, CNMI's Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be receiving \$6.9 million, and the American Samoa Power Authority \$8.3 million.

Accomplishment highlights from previous funding include:

¾ Improvements to the drinking water system in all three territories, including im-

proved chlorination in Guam, increased water storage in CNMI, and an ongoing extension of the central system in American Samoa to remote villages.

¾ EPA funding has contributed to the increased drinking water availability in Saipan, where 95 percent of the population now has access to 24-hour water (up from 75 percent in 2009).

¾ Improvements to the wastewater collection and treatment systems in all three territories, including rehabilitation of a treatment plant in Saipan,

improvements to the collection infrastructure in Guam, and ongoing extension of sewer lines in American Samoa.

¾ EPA has funded the replacement of older wastewater pumps with newer energy efficient pumps and controls, saving the utilities hundreds of thousands of dollars in power bills in all three territories.

The EPA's Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) administers and enforces federal environmental laws in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and 148 tribal nations—home to more than

48 million people. The EPA is also a significant source of funding. In 2013, more than 85 percent of the \$631 million regional operating budget flowed to state and tribal agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and private sector companies in the form of grants and contracts. This funding pays for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, air pollution reduction programs, Superfund site cleanups and many other activities that protect human health and natural resources. (EPA)

Missing vessel found adrift in Pacific



Sixty-year-old Greg Stephanoff was last seen departing Ala Wai boat harbor on his 42-foot Catalina sloop *C:DRIVE*.

nukai notified the Coast Guard that they had come across what appeared to be a derelict sailing vessel named the *C:Drive* approximately 1,300 miles west of Oahu. The container ship attempted to communicate with the vessel on VHF channel 16 and made several blasts on the ship's whistle in an attempt to contact anyone aboard. No one was observed aboard and the *Manukai* continued its course having no means of boarding.

An HC-130 Hercules aircraft crew was launched from Air Station Barbers Point and the fishing vessel *Wakatake Maru* was redirected to rendezvous with *C:Drive*. The *Wakatake Maru* crewmembers located the *C:Drive*, but weather conditions made boarding the vessel unsafe.

The Coast Guard cutter *Kukui*, a 225-foot buoy tender home ported in Honolulu, was dispatched to locate and board the sailing vessel. The transit from Honolulu to *C:Drive*'s last known position took four days.

The crew of the *Kukui* located the *C:Drive* and conducted a boarding at 3:30pm. Friday. They discovered no one aboard and no indication of what may have happened. The vessel was marked with paint by the boarding team and remains adrift. A GPS and personal effects were removed from the vessel to possibly ascertain what transpired during the month the vessel was adrift. (USCG)

heard from him for two days.

The Coast Guard broadcast a notice to mariners via VHF Channel 16, contacted harbor masters, marinas, and other known locations Stephanoff frequented, requesting information on his whereabouts. Without any new information, the Coast Guard suspended the search on Oct. 15 pending further developments.

On Nov. 7, crewmembers aboard the container ship *Ma-*

NMC helps close to 400 Cash for College participants



Northern Marianas College academic records specialist Jennifer F. Del Avellano, right, answers questions about the college's admissions process at the recent "Cash for College" workshop.

The Northern Marianas College recently hosted a well-received and successful "Cash for College" workshop over the weekend where staff members and community volunteers provided free, one-on-one financial aid assistance to nearly 400 participants.

The purpose of the free workshop was to assist students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities currently available to those seeking to obtain a college education.

At the workshop, participants received personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the various federal and local scholarships and grants including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, the CNMI Scholarship, and the College Access Challenge Grant Scholarship.

Other scholarships featured at the event included the Gates Millennium Scholarship, the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship, and the Women's Opportunity Award sponsored by Soroptimist International.

In addition, staff members from the college's Office of

Admissions and Records were present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

The approximately 383 workshop participants also received free notary and copying services, as well as fee waivers for the NMC admission application fee and placement tests for the upcoming spring 2014 semester.

Many of these participants were students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and other private high schools. Some of the participants also included parents of students, and students currently enrolled at NMC.

"We are so lucky to have this kind of service brought into our community," said one student in attendance.

Another attendee, from Marianas High School said, "I came in a little bit anxious, but left satisfied with the help I received. This workshop was worth my time."

"We are very pleased with the great turn out for the Cash for College workshop," said NMC dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan. "It was re-

warding to see many students take advantage of this opportunity to see what financial aid opportunities are available and how to maximize and apply for them."

However, for students who missed the recent Cash for College workshop, Pangelinan recommends visiting NMC's Financial Aid Office in Room N-1 at the As Terlaje campus (Monday-Friday, from 8am to 4:30pm) or contacting the office at (670) 237-6792 to get assistance in filling out forms.

The free Cash for College workshop including the past workshops on Tinian and Rota were made possible through financial support from the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program. This federal program aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

The Cash for College event is part of the college and higher education focused activities lined up for College Month. For a list of upcoming activities that are part of College Month, visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Belated happy birthday to Beth Aguilar Del Rosario, who celebrated her birthday on Nov. 17, 2013. May you have many more birthdays to come. God bless and keep on smiling! Greetings coming out from the *Saipan Tribune* family (NOT the Sales Team).



Happy 3rd month birthday to our one and only *kiridu*, Izaiah Blaze. May the Lord bless you son. We love you! Love, Mommy and Daddy.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This happy birthday shoutout goes to Francis Castro and Michelle Atalig, who are both celebrating their special day today. Many things have changed over the years but you're both still the same great persons you've always have been. May both your birthday be as magnificent as you are! With much love from your family and friends.

Rotary to hold garage sale for Palau, PH relief efforts

The Rotary Club of Saipan is joining the call of its fellow Rotarians mobilizing worldwide to assist families in Palau and the Philippines struggling to survive in the destructive wake of Super Typhoon Haiyan by organizing its first garage sale next Saturday.

"We invite the community to come and support our fundraising efforts next Saturday, Nov. 30, starting at 6am at the Associated Insurance office parking lot next to Bank Pacific to help raise funds for families affected by this terrible disaster in Palau and the Philippines," said president Laila Y. Boyer.

"We will have many valuable items, household goods, toys, books, clothes for sale all donated by our fellow Rotarians, and we thank them for their generosity," she said.

Saipan Rotary Club chartered the Rotary Club of Koror and has learned that the island of Kayangel, north of Palau, has also been declared "unlivable" as dozens of homes were destroyed with no access to water and power.

"Families in Palau and the Philippines need our help with all the resources we could give. We are joining our fellow nonprofit groups, companies,

corporations, families, and individuals who are extending a helping hand in this time of great need. Your support, small or big, will go a long way in rebuilding and changing lives," said Boyer.

The local club is also donating \$1,000 to ShelterBox, a global nonprofit partner of Rotary that provides boxes of emergency supplies to families without shelter and food.

Rotary International president Ron Burton sent a personal letter to all Rotary clubs worldwide yesterday, encouraging all Rotarians to take action.



Burton

"I am urging our clubs to take action to provide emergency aid now and begin planning for the future when we can help rebuild homes, schools, and businesses. While Rotary is not an emergency disaster-relief organization, we are in the business of helping people in need," said Burton.

"I saw first-hand the difference Rotarians can make after one of the deadliest tornadoes on record tore through communities in my home state of Oklahoma. The widespread destruction was heartbreaking. Almost immediately after the storm, Rotarians were out in force cleaning debris, col-

lecting food and water, and comforting families who lost everything," he said. Rotary's partner ShelterBox has committed aid for thousands of families in the form of emergency shelter and other relief assistance.

Burton noted that they were already in the Philippines when the typhoon hit, providing aid to families who lost homes in the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck the Philippines in September.

"We have more than 21,000 Rotary members in the Philippines. The hardest hit areas include Districts 3860, 3850, and 3830. We are working with our governors in the affected areas to determine what type of support will be most effective, and we will continue to provide updates on www.rotary.org," said Burton.

For more information or if you would like to donate goods for the garage sale, please email saipanrotary@gmail.com. (*Rotary*)

Rotary members in the Philippines pack relief goods for victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan. Hundreds of Rotary clubs around the world are also coordinating emergency aid packages for hard-hit communities. Photo courtesy of Rotary District 3860, Philippines.



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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2014. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 20, 2013 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS."

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

SOLICITATION TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Recently a motion was filed to reopen Civil Case No. CV-01-0031, *DOE I, et al., v. THE GAP, INC., et al.*, which was granted and Timothy H. Bellas, has been appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to distribute certain residual funds which were previously held in trust for a contingent liability that never required payment.

Therefore, a residual amount of money exists which, by the terms of the Settlement Agreement in the above entitled case, is to be donated to charity.

As a result, all non-profit organizations, who qualify for charitable status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c), are asked to submit a request for a donation from this Residual Fund. Preference will be given to organizations whose charitable services are available to all members of the CNMI Community.

At a minimum, requests should state: 1) the amount requested; 2) describe what type of charitable activity the organization is involved in and 3) how any funds which may be donated to the organization would be used. Requests from organizations who are not well known as charitable, should also submit evidence of their 501(c) status.

Please send all donation requests to:

Timothy H. Bellas
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950

All requests must be in writing and received no later than December 13, 2013 in order to be considered.

The decision to donate and the amount of such donations are entirely discretionary. This solicitation shall create no rights or obligations in or to any third party. However, a proposed list of donations will be submitted to and is subject to the final approval by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Timothy H. Bellas

TFG Team 2 continues Angel mission



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Soldiers from Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, display the Guam flag at Camp Blackhorse, Kabul, Afghanistan, between rows of Multi-Strike Force Vehicles of the Afghan National Army.

By SGT EDDIE SIGUENZA
GUAM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CAMP BLACKHORSE, Afghanistan—Soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard's Foxtrot Company will finish what their brothers from Headquarters Company started when the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment commenced their Operation Enduring Freedom mission in May.

Close to two dozen Foxtrot soldiers serve as guardian angels for civilian instructors and contractors at this important Afghan National Army facility. This is a key site for Mobile Strike Force Vehicles, a critical weapon for Afghanistan's security. It's here where Department of Defense instructors teach ANA soldiers, drivers and mechanics MSFV's capabilities, and where Guam soldiers keep the instructors safe.

"It's an important place. Once they're here they learn how to run the vehicles and guns and that makes them capable of defending their country," said Staff Sgt. Henry S. Cruz Jr., Foxtrot squad leader. "They're doing a lot of training. They've got to be certified as gunners, drivers and mechanics."

The Foxtrot soldiers will spend the last quarter of their deployment in this Kabul facility. They moved from Kandahar Airfield, site of Foxtrot's main operating base. They relieved a Headquarters Company team that returned to its Camp Phoenix location.

Guam's 2nd Lt. Matthew Manglona, Task Force Guam's officer in charge at Camp Blackhorse, said his group welcomed the new mission. They immediately picked up where their brothers in arms left off, even adding a small tactical operations center to improve command and control.

It's not just the instructors that the Guam force protects, Manglona explained. Civilian contractors also advise ANA managed logistics, so a Guam team is regularly assigned for



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

2nd Lt. Matthew Manglona, platoon leader, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, listens to Robert C. Faille Jr., program manager for Textron Marine and Land Systems while discussing an upcoming movement at Camp Blackhorse, Kabul, Afghanistan.

their protection.

The MSFV is a security vehicle patterned after the U.S. military's armored security vehicle, according to Robert C. Faille Jr., program manager for Afghanistan's Operations and Logistics section of Textron Marine and Land Systems, the company contracted to supply the vehicles. The MSFV offers high ballistic protection comparable to a mine resistant ambush protected armored vehicle used by Guam and other coalition forces.

"The Guam soldiers work extremely well with us, without them we wouldn't be able to do our jobs," Faille said. "There are many key things to know when operating this vehicle. It's our job to teach this to the ANA soldiers. We can't teach them properly without the Guam soldiers. They watch us, keep us safe, and we help them. This all adds up to the overall process of Afghan security taking care of their own country when our forces leave."

Cruz said his troops are regularly assigned guardian angel missions, and occupy sectors around the camp. Some stay close to their principals, others are situated around vehicles and buildings. Everyone has radios



SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

Sgt. Tulen K. Nena, a fire team leader for Foxtrot Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, provides security for Multi-Strike Force Vehicles of the Afghan National Army at Camp Blackhorse, Kabul, Afghanistan.

and they maintain constant communication throughout their mission. The Guam soldiers will strategically place tactical vehicles around the compound to aid their overall security.

"The biggest thing for us is to not be complacent," Manglona said. "Everyone knows the mission doesn't end until everyone comes home."

"It's repetitive, but we still can't be complacent," Cruz added. "It's just a matter of staying alert and maintaining situational awareness."

ANA participants attend the Armored Branch School and receive multiple weeks of training on three different MSFVs.

"The goal of the school is to have the Afghans all trained to where they'll be self-sustained," Faille added.

Alfredo de Jesus, a civilian instructor and MSFV field service technician, said, "Having the Guam soldiers providing security day in and out is very important. Without their support, we would not be able to perform our duties feeling secured."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 20, 2005

GOP, Covenant on even footing in Legislature

Both the Republican Party and Covenant Party are in the same footing as far as membership in the Legislature is concerned. Based on the current standing, GOP and the Covenant Party would have 10 members each. Both are expected to increase to 12 each if their old allies who ran outside their parties, mostly as independents, join them back. The Republican Party has 10 members but it would increase to 12 if Sen. Pete P. Reyes and congressman-elect Stanley Torres re-align with them.

Newcomers lead municipal council races

Newcomers ruled the 2005 general elections for the municipal council seats on all three islands in the CNMI. The Tudelas reigned supreme in the municipal council races on Saipan as both Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela and Antonia Manibusan Tudela took two of the three spots open. Marian DLG. Tudela, a newcomer, and incumbent Antonia M. Tudela got a total of 4,458 and 4,183 votes respectively. Former CNMI Arts Council officer Angel S. Hocog took the third seat with 4,096 votes. For the Tinian Municipal Council election, the winners are all newcomers. Francisco Cruz won the top spot with 571 points, only seven votes ahead of Charlene Manglona Lizama, who had 564 votes. Trenton Brian Conner, who was ranked four before the counting of the absentee ballots, took the third spot from Eugenio Henry L. Villagomez, who had a 19-vote lead before the absentee ballots came in.

November 20, 2006

Chief Justice Demapan fights Big C

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan is fighting the Big C. But after successful two operations for colon cancer in Honolulu, he is now back here on Saipan—ready to work again. "I'm doing fine now. I'm in excellent health right now," the 54-year-old Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* on Thursday at the Judicial Complex in Susupe. "I feel well...that's the reason why I'm here. I just want to go back to work. I'm anxious to continue with what I'm doing here in the judiciary," he said. Colon cancer is the term commonly used to describe colo-rectal (or bowel) cancer. The colon is part of the intestines.

Ogo wants Rota CIP funds used for windmill project

A Rota lawmaker is pushing for his island's capital improvement funds to be reprogrammed for a windmill project. Rep. Crispin M. Ogo said that Rota has about \$28 million in federal funds for infrastructure projects, including those that have been completed and those that have yet to start. He said that at least \$4 million of these funds can be reprogrammed for a windmill project, which he hopes will augment the power supplied by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and ultimately reduce utility rates for Rota residents. The funds being eyed for reprogramming include \$1.2 million from a landfill project and \$1.6 million from a wastewater project.

November 20, 2007

Rain triggers outages, flooding

Strong rain and winds brought by a trade-wind disturbance caused flooding in some areas on Saipan and triggered early morning outages in the southern part of the island and other areas yesterday. The Emergency Management Office also alerted Tinian and Rota that the disturbance would bring minor flooding in parts of the islands. As of last night, heavy flooding was reported in Kannat Tabla, Dandan, Lower Base, and Susupe. Washed out tree branches and rocks littered the streets as the downpour created runoffs that swamped the highways.

Legislature sets yearend deadline for passage of budget

The Legislature will begin today a series of hearings on the budget for fiscal year 2008. In the next two weeks, each government agency will appear before a joint legislative committee to discuss its specific budget needs and the impact of the governor's budget proposal on its operations. "We will try to get the budget passed before the end of the year," said House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta. He added that budget talks would take into account the looming layoff of Executive Branch employees, whose partial-term contracts will expire on Dec. 22, 2007. "We will do our best to prevent the layoff from happening," Babauta said.



Tinian celebrates Veterans Day, USMC birthday with Marines

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN, Mariana Islands—Approximately 200 Marines with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, collaborated with locals to celebrate both Veterans Day and the 238th Marine Corps Birthday on Nov. 11, 2013, at Tinian's North Field's 2nd and 4th Marine Division Monuments.

Marines and residents of Tinian fostered relationships as they remember those who have fallen in the line of duty and bring Marine Corps' traditions to Tinian. The Marines are on Tinian for exercise Forager Fury II, which is designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.

To commence the day's festivities, Veterans Day began with an introduction from Zania Fleming, ceremony hostess, followed by an invocation by Pastor Jim Howard. The Tinian Junior Senior High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard conducted a presentation of colors.

The color guard was more than anxious to perform in front of veterans, according to Retired 1st Sgt. Peter Salas, Senior army instructor for TJSHS JROTC.

"When I first mentioned it to the [children], they were more than excited because it's going to be the first time they did a

Veterans Day and a combination with the Marines' birthday," said Salas. "They found it a unique opportunity. One, to participate with the Marines and two, to learn what the Marines really do other than the stuff they see in the movies. They were arguing who was going to hold the Marines colors because [three of the color guard] aspires to be Marines."

One of the members is a junior at TJSHS who has been on the color guard for two years with the intention of becoming the battalion commander before he graduates.

"I'm honored and very happy that I got to march the Marine Corps flag with the Marines here, but I have to admit, I was very nervous," said Cadet Capt. Christian Miasha, Company B commander for TJSHS JROTC. "The Marines talked to us afterwards and when they explained things, they were specific and very detailed. In comparison, we hardly knew anything so it was indescribable, being able to learn from those men."

Joe Dela Cruz, mayor's office senior policy adviser, was in charge with organizing the event with the Marines as well as all the components. Dela Cruz mentioned if it wasn't for the staff at the mayor's office and the Marines working together this event couldn't have been the huge success it was because of their effort and commitment. He also mentioned the enormous impact Marines had on the TJSHS JROTC.

"This particular event brings a multi-phase interest to our

community because of the Marines' presence and a lot of our young people want to contribute and be a part of the U.S. armed forces," said Delacruz. "This gives them a glance into the future of what they are trying to enter."

Don A. Farrell, Tinian mayor's office chief of staff, gave welcoming remarks to everyone who attended after the presentation of colors and a special thanks to veterans and active duty personnel. Farrell helped attendees to be aware of the historic value North Field contains.

Farrell gave an overview how Tinian played a major role in winning World War II. Speaking from his book, *Tinian: A Brief History*, he talked about the Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees), landing with the Marines on July 24, 1944, and made the Japanese runway operational just two days later, allowing transport aircraft from Saipan to lift out the wounded and bring in medical supplies.

Preceding the Veterans Day, a presentation of the U.S. Marine Corps' 238th birthday cake brightened the atmosphere and raised the morale of the celebration.

Two Marines spoke on the behalf of the birthday ceremony to help inform the people of Tinian why Marines celebrate the birthday. One of those Marines read Commandant James F. Amos' birthday message and Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message and realized they mean more than just words.

"It's an honor and I think they are incredibly important

messages," said Cpl. Michelle Reges from Wilmington, Del., administrative clerk with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, 1st MAF, III MEF. "It's a good reminder to remember what we stand for and why we join: to defend our nation, our constitution and our freedoms. When you read the messages it starts to sink in that Marines are here for one another and we are a reflection of our history. We should continue to strive to reflect our history as the Marine before showed us. No matter what battle they were fighting, whether it was Tarawa or Baghdad, Marines took care of one another whether they like him or not because we, as Marines, look out for each other and things like the Marine Corps birthday and Veterans Day help to remember those important values."

With all messages read, Marines introduced their custom of cutting the cake to the local community members with the oldest Marine taking the first bite and then giving it to the youngest Marine to take a bite as a symbol of the passing of knowledge. The oldest Marine was Master Sgt. Juan Carlos Areiza from Brooklyn, N.Y., with MWSS 171, 1st MAF, III MEF, and the youngest Marine was Lance Cpl. Alan Beatty from Bradford, Maine, with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAF, III MEF.

With emotions high, Taps was played to remember and embrace the men and women



Approximately 200 Marines work together with residents to celebrate both Veterans' Day and the 238th Marine Corps Birthday Nov. 11, 2013, at Tinian's Historic North Field's 2nd and 4th Marine Division Monuments. Marines and residents of Tinian foster working relationships as they remember those who have fallen in the line of duty and bring Marine Corps tradition to Tinian. Tinian and the Marines celebrated not only the birth of the Marine Corps, but Veterans' Day at the same time. Marines introduced locals to as many of their customs possible. Together, Marines and locals ate, danced and enjoyed all that the event had to offer. Marines are on Tinian conducting exercise Forager Fury II, designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment. Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAF, III MEF.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO



who give the ultimate sacrifice to their family and country.

"I think having this event right now is good toward attraction," said Aiyla Cing, vendor. "It gives the people of Tinian the opportunity to meet the Marines one by one and see what they're using to improve our island."

Major Aaron E. Heisinger from Albany, Ore., Tinian Detachment officer-in-charge with MWSS 171, 1st MAF, III MEF, had several remarks of his own after the event was winding down.

"It was beautiful day with a wonderful turnout, having the [community members] spend Veterans Day with all the Marines and sailors," said Heising-

er. "It was awesome to see that many people up here, at North Field, to commemorate Veterans Day as well as our 238th Marine Corps birthday. The interaction between the Marines and local community members was absolutely positive."

There were no Marines in their dress blues, no parade of uniforms, no fancy ballroom elegantly decorated; just Marines in their woodland utility uniforms covered with sweat and debris from working at North Field.

However, according to Heisinger, this shared a moment of another year's conclusion of the Marine Corps with the people of Tinian cannot be described with words.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

No new Iran sanctions now

With exquisitely bad timing, a group of House members is urging the Senate to approve new sanctions against Iran in the middle of negotiations on a deal in which the Islamic Republic would suspend its nuclear program.

On Thursday, 63 members, led by Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul, R-Texas, and Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Calif., sent a letter to Senate leaders urging action on the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act, which passed the House in July. The legislation would stiffen sanctions against some Iranian officials and penalize governments that might divert U.S. goods, services or technology to Iran. It also includes an expression of support for "freedom, human rights, civil liberties, free elections and the rule of law in Iran," which, while unobjectionable in and of itself, can be read as a veiled call for regime change.

The House members argue that because existing sanctions brought Iran to the negotiating table, "the threat of enhanced sanctions holds the promise of compelling Iran to give up its ambitions." But that threat will exist whether this legislation is enacted or not. The question is whether rushing to institute new sanctions at this time would undermine the delicate negotiations between Iran and the so-called P5-plus-1—the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany.

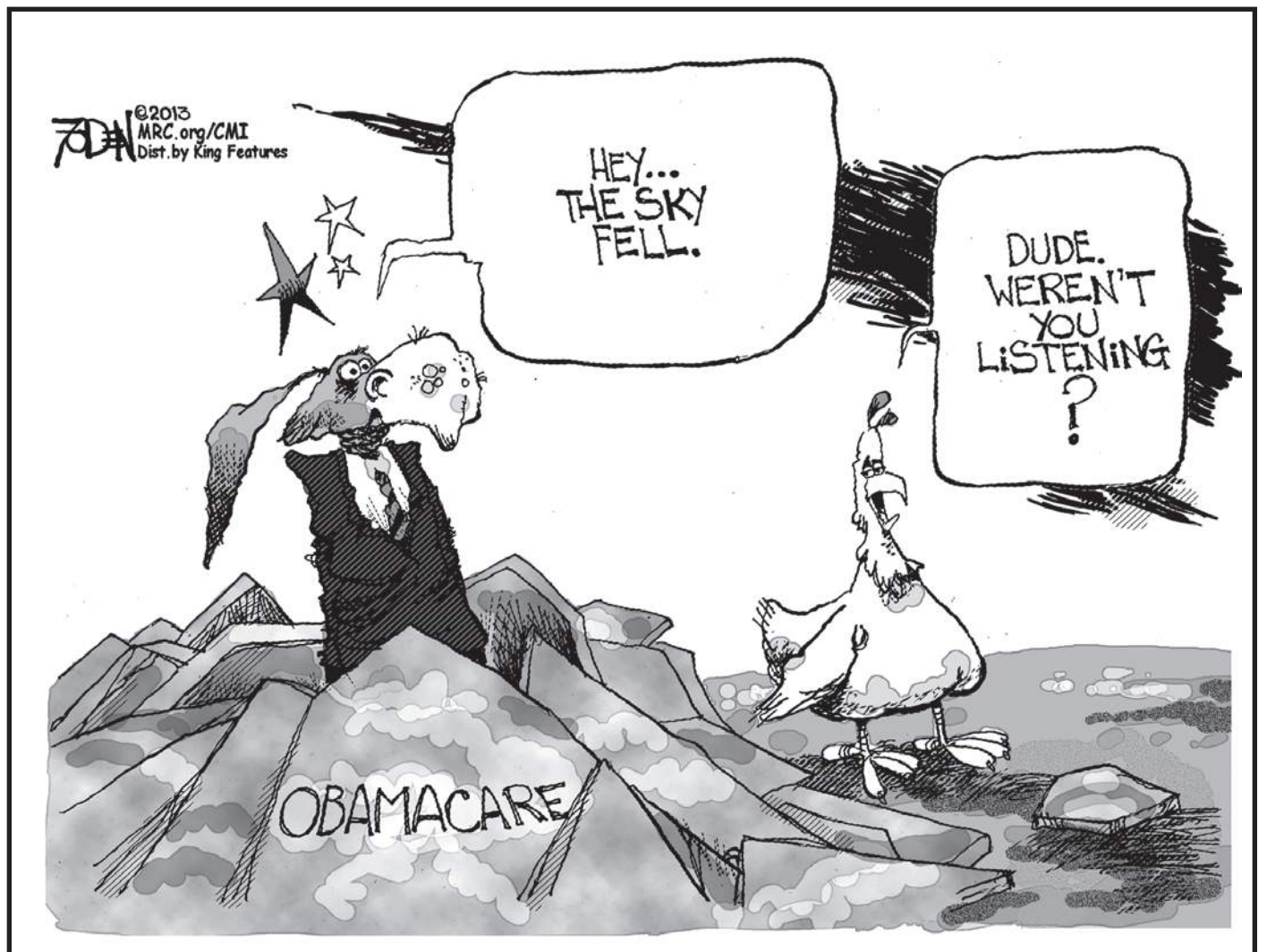
Secretary of State John F. Kerry, who has been overseeing those negotiations for the U.S., has no doubt that new sanctions would have that effect. This week he warned that "if Congress were to unilaterally move to raise sanctions, it could break faith with those negotiations and actually stop them and break them apart."

At his news conference Thursday, President Obama also cautioned against precipitous action by Congress. He noted that "there is no need for us to add new sanctions on top of the sanctions that are already very effective and that brought them (to the) table in the first place. Now, if it turns out they can't deliver, they can't come to the table in a serious way and get this issue resolved, the sanctions can be ramped back up."

There is no guarantee that the current negotiations will bear fruit. After feverish speculation about an imminent agreement, high-level talks in Geneva adjourned a week ago without a deal. Still, there are strong indications that the government of President Hassan Rouhani is serious about an arrangement in which Iran would abandon any ambitions to develop nuclear weapons in exchange for relief from existing sanctions. This week the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran's new government has slowed expansion of its nuclear program almost to a halt since August.

As Kerry put it, Congress should "calm down" and let the negotiations continue.

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Typhoon Haiyan and the language of disaster

Alie repeated often and confidently enough can become widely mistaken for the truth, becoming a belief that obscures the facts. False beliefs about disaster follow this model; their poison is concentrated in a few oft-deployed words, notably "mobs," "panic" and "looting."

This poison is being poured out over the disaster zones of the Philippines right now as misleading coverage threatens to become its own disaster, augmenting the existing one.

Attempts at survival are not criminal acts, yet that is how they are often portrayed in news reports suggesting the problem is out-of-control mobs or looting rather than that the largest typhoon ever to make landfall has left thousands dead and tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands, without food, water or medical care.

We have headlines like these: "Video Shows Looting in Tacloban Store" (from *Euronews*); "Looting, Gunfire Erupts in Typhoon-Hit Philippines" (the *New York Post*); and "Desperate Philippine Survivors Turn to Looting" (the *Chicago Tribune*). A story in this newspaper described "rampant looting and lawlessness." And a BBC story quoted an American missionary as saying, "I'm worried it may become a mob situation; we need the military to get there as soon as possible."

Or take this from the Associated Press: "Mobs overran a rice warehouse" and "parts of the disaster zone are descending into chaos." As if being hit by 200-mile-an-hour winds that flattened everything they hit and snapped trees like toothpicks wasn't already chaotic. That AP story quotes a police chief saying, "There has been looting for the last three days," but it also quotes a congressman saying: "Some communities disappeared, entire villages were wiped out. They were shouting, 'Food, food, food!' when they saw me."

Are these people desperately hungry or are they thugs? The story's language suggests the latter, while everything else suggests the former.

Disasters have been studied very carefully since World War II. The sociologists who do so have concluded that most people are calm, resourceful, altruistic and generally more than decent throughout crises. But you wouldn't know that from much of the news coverage. Along with electricity and water, the media are too often a service that fails during disasters, spreading rumors and falling back on stereotypes and false beliefs rather than carefully reporting the facts.

The incendiary word "looting," for example, is often used to suggest that something dangerous, vile and gratuitous is taking place, though it describes what in ordinary times would amount to non-newsworthy petty theft. And these aren't ordinary times; in a major disaster there is no electricity, so bank machines and credit cards are irrelevant; few if any shops are open; and many homes are simply gone, along with all the supplies in them. All of this means, of course, that there are lots of people without the essentials to survive. Taking necessary supplies from closed and wrecked stores and

By REBECCA SOLNIT
Los Angeles Times

Rebecca Solnit is the author, among other books, of *The Faraway Nearby* and *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster*. She wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.



homes is how people have usually made it through the first days of a disaster, from the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

A widely circulated Agence France-Press story about the typhoon described a village councilor treading regretfully among the ruined houses and corpses to gather supplies to feed his family. The headline on the piece referred to his actions as looting.

Why does this misrepresentation matter? Thanks to bad journalism, many readers come to believe that the storm victims are criminals or thugs or mobs and that the situation is savage rather than tragic.

That can affect relief aid, and it can also provide cover for a government to take the chaos of the storm as a chance to shift priorities—maybe suspend the constitution, impose long-term martial law, prevent aid from reaching the victims or bring violence rather than help. Governments may do this partly because they believe the media stories.

Thanks in part to rumor-mongering and demonizing in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, many people in power were willing to believe the worst of New Orleans' residents. Stories suggested that survivors were shooting at helicopters and killing refugees in the Superdome, and the retractions that eventually came were too late to matter. The media can whip up another layer of suffering and destruction on top of an already dire situation, and they often have. Right now, they appear to be doing so again.

More than 60 years of disaster studies suggest that actually we do govern ourselves pretty well in crises and in the absence of institutional authority. And most disasters give us more grounds to question institutional authority than to question ordinary human beings. As one journalist in the Philippines wrote privately: "When a man in devastated Tacloban takes food from the shelf of an abandoned grocery, he is called a looter and a thief. When a man in Manila takes money meant for the man in Tacloban, he is called a senator."

When newspapers report on human suffering, they suggest we should care. When they demonize the same people, they suggest that maybe we don't have to, and when they focus on the status of material goods rather than that suffering, they suggest property is more important than people.

Maybe these things are true, to them. Are they to you?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Defining moment on policy

It isn't rocket science to gauge the pulse in the livelihood of our people. In fact, many are hurting very badly from two issues. They are:

1. Cut of 25 percent in pension pay that robs them of their purchasing power.

2. Parade of increases in their utility bill as CUC gets more loans to fix the mess.

Each of the 3,000 retirees has family members in their household whose income has been neutralized by the 25-percent cut in monthly pension pay.

You add the impending increase in utility rates and it basically pans out to a total of 30 percent in income reduction (strength of your purchasing power) per family. It's one egregious hardship after another and there doesn't seem to be any end in sight.

Is the administration and CUC in cahoots to impose more hardship against families throughout the CNMI? Whatever happened to the commitment to improve the lot or wellbeing of families? Is the new face of "better times" one of total hardship against the multitude throughout the archipelago? Why more loans when many families are really hurting in their pocketbooks? Why can't the administration and CUC ask our illustrious delegate in Washington, D.C. for appropriations?

But then CUC could head to the Department of the Interior (OIA) and ask for a federal guarantee on a loan (\$25 million and below) from a private bank. The loan must still be paid and guess what: You and I the ratepayers (consumers) are slammed with this obligation, like it or not. Shall we now move in and stop the bleeding once and for all?

Moreover, it's common sense that two incompetences don't add up to competence. It remains a fireball of incompetence no matter how you dice or splice it. It is this incompetence that has forced so many of our people to endure unsolicited hardship in subterranean abject poverty. A sense of humility could go a long way to fixing this mess. But when the elected elite comfortably embraces mediocrity in what's known as leadership, then the end result is *mañana* or "followership."

The grand complacency hasn't helped the multitude see hopeful or brighter days. In fact, we now fear for our lives given the lackadaisical demeanor policymakers have treated our egregiously

deepening livelihood in misery. Hope I am wrong on this score!

Attending a conference on coral reef in the U.S. Virgin Islands or intermittent loans by CUC so it simply passes it on to consumers aren't the answers either. Why must "we the people" forcibly swallow hardship, the genesis of which emanates from incompetence? Is the elected elite aware that there's a way out of the deepening mess? Are you folks aware that the hardship you've allowed against "we the people" need not be this way?

The defining moment in policy review is in the palm of your hands. You can move to adopt a measure privatizing CUC so we stop the bleeding now! If you decide otherwise, then you've opted to sink the people you represent in our legislative institution into deeper familial hardship. I honestly hope it's done with a sense of humility so you turn policymaking into one of your crown jewel and achievement as members of the 18th NMI Legislature.

Areglu gi haanen tautau-ta

Megai gi publiku pumadedese sumen makat na chinatsaga ginen ma-utut 25 pot sientu na sueddon man-ritirau yan guaguan kandet ni sige ha' kahulu' kada tinilaikan sague' tasi.

'An unna' daña i ma-utut sueddu yan kumahulu' apas kandet, mas dañikulu ma-utut balen pesu gi fuetsan pottanmonedan familia. Mas tai fuetsa kumubre nesessidat niha sa' mas kahulu' gaston lina' la'.

Kulan uma' achaikag i administrasion yan CUC umumpaig mas sapet kontra i tautau sin konsiderasion na mampos baba i kinalamten todus familia guine. Kau este promesan para uma-adelanta ha' anen tautau-ta siha gi kada island yan soñgsoñg siha?

Este na sapet kulan un' abubu ni siempre u pagpag 'nai inipus kapasidatña. Na' mañau 'an u kahulu' este na sentimentu ginen i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Poresu na debi gi hilu' sisitan in' atan haf' na satbasion guaha antes de u pagpag i abubun publiku.

Inipus na sapet kontra i tautau ya kulan mohon todus felis. Dispues de ma-utut kinanu' familian niha ni tinatitiye ni lukau hatsadan kandet?

I publiku ha tuñgu' haf' sustansian mana' apalo'pu' ma-utut sueddu yan hatsadan kandet. Gastu este kontra kada familia 'nai mas ma-utut fuetsan potanmonedan niha gi dididi' tethnan na soblanten para nesessidat niha.

Drowning the oceans in plastic

By MARK GOLD and CARA HOROWITZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

You've probably seen the images of dolphins caught in abandoned monofilament fishing nets, or of vast areas of plastic trash floating in remote waters of the Pacific, or of sea turtles consuming plastic bags that look remarkably like one of their favorite foods: jellyfish. Or perhaps, after a rainstorm, you've walked on a beach that resembled a landfill. Some 20 million tons of plastic pollution enters the oceans each year, and it's devastating the marine environment.

Plastic litter is also costly. On the West Coast alone, according to a recent EPA study, the cost of cleaning up marine litter comes to more than \$13 per person per year. And because plastic typically does not degrade in the ocean, today's pollution will be a problem for many generations to come.

Locally, there have been some success stories. Thanks to state and federal environmental requirements, the Los Angeles region has installed screens on more than 50,000 storm water basins, as well as inserts that keep all but the smallest plastic pollution out of local rivers, beaches and bays. Additionally, bans on single-use plastic bags in a number of local jurisdictions have reduced plastic bag use by tens of millions of bags annually. And West Hollywood, Manhattan Beach, Santa Monica and Malibu have banned single-use foam food packaging. All of these measures have meant less plastic ending up in the ocean locally.

Statewide, legislation to ban plastic bags has failed numerous times due to successful lobbying efforts from plastic bag manufacturers and others, but nevertheless, more than 10 million Californians live in cities that have banned the bag. The State Water Resources Control Board will soon release a statewide trash policy that builds on the Los Angeles area's successful trash control measures.

But we need far more comprehensive policies, and the story nationally and internationally is still gloomy. Last year's landmark Rio 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized marine litter as a major environmental issue that the world must address, and it called for action by 2025 to "achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to coastal and marine environments."

However, a recent UCLA study analyzed dozens of treaties, pro-

grams and policies in place around the world and found all of them to be severely lacking. Overall, the well-intentioned international agreements impose vague or voluntary standards, require little to no monitoring, are severely underfunded and are difficult to enforce. In fact, the UCLA researchers concluded that there was essentially no recourse under international law to address most plastic marine litter on the high seas.

Even the most effective of the current treaties, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, has huge loopholes. For example, the treaty exempts accidental loss or disposal of plastic resulting from ship or equipment damage, and leaves enforcement and penalty decisions up to often-reluctant states.

To achieve the dramatic reductions necessary to stem the plastic marine litter crisis, we need a comprehensive solution akin to the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty that has dramatically reduced the global use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons. An effective treaty would include strict monitoring requirements, third-party compliance assessment, funding mechanisms and easily enforceable requirements with substantial penalties.

One big problem is that international environmental treaties can take a decade or more to negotiate. In the interim, therefore, concerned countries must also pursue regional, national and local policies and programs to address plastic marine litter.

Potential actions could include the creation of an "ocean-friendly" product certification program; regional and national bans on the most common and damaging types of plastic litter; the expansion of programs that provide economic incentives for manufacturers to manage plastic waste sustainably; the creation and implementation of certification and tracking programs for fishing and aquaculture operations; and the establishment of funding sources for marine litter remediation through product redemption fees and shipping container fees at ports.

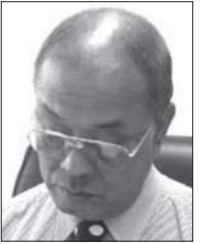
No individual action will solve the plastic marine litter crisis, but swift implementation of these policies could have a huge positive effect in reducing a critical environmental problem.

Mark Gold is associate director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. Cara Horowitz is executive director of the Emmett Center on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA Law School. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Para hafa tana' chagu': I tautau dos ni ñgai'an 'nai umalefa—haf' mames yan mala'et 'sino ginefsagaña yan didog na chinatsagaña. Ileghu na propiu i tiempu 'nai siña in' nasuha 'an yamag rilos ya in' pegaye tagueña otru kosake todus tumuñgu' keora. Oran areglu gi ha' anen tautau-ta. Pot fabot fanue' ham na man-listu hamyu chumahlau finaisen tautau miyu. Si Yuus Maase'!

■■■

The privatization of CUC is the answer to allowing a competent private firm to move in with fresh funds to fix the mess without raising utility rates. This is the only way to stop the bleeding! To remain under CUC is to accept more increases in power rates beyond what we could reasonably afford. This grand sense of incompetence must end forthwith. "We the people" deserve better!

■■■

The elected elite need not look beyond the hardship the people they represent have to endure. It only requires initial apprehension or common sense. Do you ignore their plight in favor of the politics of apathy? Isn't it time to move in and assist them as victims of incompetence? Or is it your desire to sink them deeper into the sinkhole of misery in abject poverty?

■■■

The lessons of history are hardly forgotten or ignored. The painful experience most had to endure today would reach venues in a carriage for appropriate disposition. Be a part of a constructive agenda to move the needle of growth forward. It's the only way to eliminate the miseries inundating the entire archipelago these days. It need not be this way!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Divisive? I think not

Let me tell you a story from right here in the CNMI.

A group of people spends most of their lives being taken advantage of and not getting their due. They take it and take it and take it, but at a point, they get fed up with it. They start talking to other people in the same situation. They form a political interest group, and maybe even speak out as a group, in one unified voice. They meet. They petition elected officials. They make Facebook pages. They write letters. Maybe they even march.

Now, if I told you that the group I'm talking about consists of foreign contract workers, most of you, and especially the editors and commenters of this newspaper, will think that this is a great inspirational story. Wendy Doromal and others will cheer the foreign workers getting together and making their concerns known.

Now imagine I told you that the group I'm talking about is people with diabetes. Or senior citizens. Or dog owners. Or SCUBA divers. All of them have their concerns and you'd likely cheer them for voicing their concerns to the public.

So why the hate when Northern Marianas descent U.S. citizens, the rightful owners of these islands, form a group for voicing their concerns? Why the name-calling from Gov. Inos, who said that NMDs are "divisive"? Is it "divisive" for the U.S. citizens here to speak out for their interests? Sure, just as much as it's "divisive" for contract workers, dog owners, Republicans, Democrats, or roller skaters to speak out about their interests. But that's what democracy is about. Different people voicing their interests.

Unless you expect us NMDs to quietly lie down and take whatever is given us, without a chance of political expression, just as it was back in the colonial days. If that's not your intent, then you should embrace and celebrate that we NMDs are speaking our minds. We are the voters, the landowners, and the citizen constituency here. Shouldn't we be entitled to speak our political opinions at least as much as, if not even more than, foreigners, visitors, temporaries, and other outsiders?






You call it "divisive," but I call it democracy in action, and I invite all NMDs to make their voices heard.

Henry Rabauliman
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy... becoming mostly cloudy Saturday. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

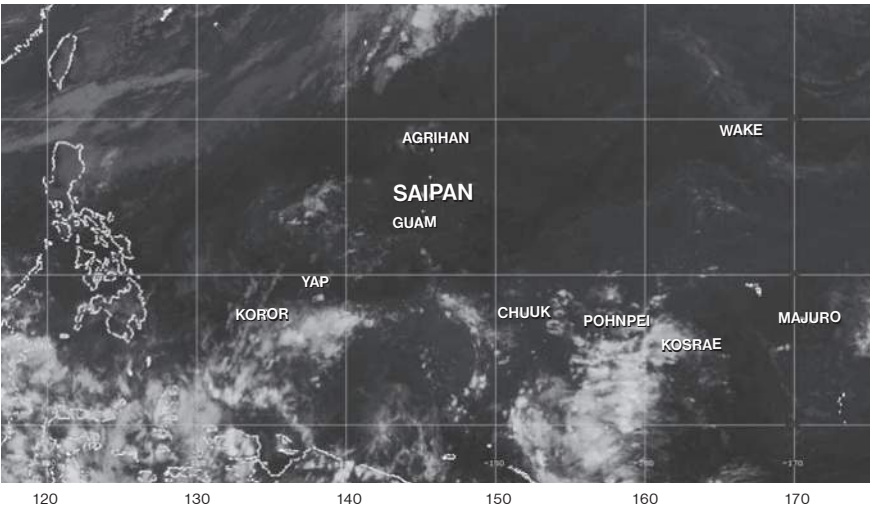
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲52 ▼28
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼67
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼35
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼71
New York	Windy	▲49 ▼31
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼47
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲43 ▼36
Pusan	Windy	▲57 ▼40
Rome	Rain	▲62 ▼52
Salem	Rain	▲52 ▼33
San Francisco	Rain	▲61 ▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲45 ▼31
Tokyo	Sunny	▲60 ▼42
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲52 ▼36

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
10:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
8:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front runs southwestward from 25N146E to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles north-west of this boundary. Low-level convergence is generating a band of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Koror and just south of Yap up to within 100 miles either side of a line from EQ131E to 3N131E to 7N136E to 8N143E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across parts of Chuuk and Pohnpei states between the equator and 10N from 150E to 160E. Isolated thunderstorms are found farther west, south of a line from 8N150E to 4N144E. Another trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from east of Kosrae, across Majuro to the date line within 150 miles of a line from 1N166E to 6N173E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:54 PM	8:14 AM
Thursday	8:43 PM	9:02 AM
Friday	9:32 PM	9:47 AM
Saturday	10:20 PM	10:30 AM
Sunday	11:08 PM	11:11 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Yahoo vows to encrypt all its users' personal data



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, photo, shows a sign in front of Yahoo! headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo is expanding its efforts to protect its users' online activities from prying eyes by encrypting all the communications and other information flowing into the Internet company's data centers around the world.

The commitment announced Monday by Yahoo Inc. CEO Marissa Mayer follows a recent Washington Post report that the National Security Agency has been hacking into the communications lines of the data centers run by Yahoo and Google Inc. to intercept information about what people do and say online.

Yahoo had previously promised to encrypt its email service by early January. Now, the Sunnyvale, Calif., company plans to have all data encrypted by the end of March to make it more difficult for unauthorized parties to decipher the information.

Google began to encrypt its Gmail service in 2010 and has since introduced the security measure on many other services. The Mountain View, Calif., company has promised to encrypt the links to its data centers, too. A Google engineer said that task had been completed in a post on his Google Plus account earlier this month, but the company hasn't yet confirmed all the encryption work is done.

Other documents leaked to various media outlets by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden this year have revealed that Yahoo, Google and several other prominent technology companies, including Microsoft Corp., Facebook Inc. and Apple Inc., have been feeding the U.S. government some information about their international users under a court-monitored program called PRISM. The companies maintain they have only surrendered data about a very small number of users, and have only cooperated when legally required.

The NSA says its online surveillance programs have played an instrumental role in thwarting terrorism.

The increased use of encryption technology is aimed at stymieing government surveillance that may be occurring without the companies' knowledge. Even when it's encrypted, online data can still be heisted, but the information looks like gibberish without the decoding keys.

Despite surge, many don't see a stock bubble

NEW YORK (AP)—Is the stock market due for a pullback? The Dow Jones industrial average has surged 900 points since early October and crossed the 16,000-point threshold Monday. IPOs are hot again. Small investors, stirred from their post-recession daze, are coming back to stocks. And it's been more than two years since the market has had a significant slump.

Those trends have raised concerns of a stock bubble. They shouldn't, money managers say, because even with the broader market's 26 percent jump this year, stocks aren't overpriced yet.

"Stocks are not cheap, but that does not mean that the stock market is expensive," says Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist with Blackrock.

The ratio of stock prices to projected profits for companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index is 15, according to data from FactSet. That's slightly below the average of 16.2 over the last 15 years and far below the peak of 25 in late 1990s and early 2000s.

Underneath the rally, most of the fundamentals of this market remain solid. Corporate profit margins are near historic highs and profits are expected to keep rising. There are no signs the U.S. economy, which is still recovering from the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession, will slip back into a downturn.

All that leaves investors with conflicting feelings. Few see the stock market as attractive as it was at the beginning of the year, but fewer see an alternative where they should put their money.

Bonds are down 2.1 percent this year, according to the benchmark Barclays U.S. Aggregate bond index. Cash has a near-zero return in money market funds. Gold has dropped 24 percent.



In this Sunday, Nov. 16, 2013, file photo, a model poses next to a Hyundai Tucson facelift on display at the Kuala Lumpur International Motor Show in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 2014, Hyundai says it will start selling Tucson SUV powered by a hydrogen fuel cell.

Do you give money to relatives? You may be the 'family bank'

By **WALTER HAMILTON**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—More than six in 10 older Americans have become the "family bank," giving financial support to relatives even if it means delaying their own retirements, according to a new survey.

Among people age 50 and older, 62 percent gave monetary assistance to a family member in the last five years, either one-time help or ongoing support, according to the study by Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management and research firm Age Wave.

The average amount of assistance is \$14,900.

The report, titled "Are You the Family Bank? Can You Afford to Be?," underscores the myriad financial pressures facing the 50-plus crowd. Rather than stowing away money for their own rapidly approaching and often underfunded retirements, many people are writing checks to adult children or aging parents.

"The role of the family bank is often assigned to those who saved and invested responsibly," the study says. "In fact, the more financially responsible you are, the more likely other family members will consider you to be the family bank."

The study shows Americans' generosity toward their families. Among parents with adult children, 68 percent have given them assistance, according to the survey.

Six in 10 pre-retirees said they would push back retirement to help out family. Four in 10 said they would return to work after retirement, while nearly that many said they'd accept a less comfortable retirement.

The study, however, also underscores the friction in some families, as those who have been frugal resent the entreaties by their sometimes-profligate relatives.

Said one unnamed poll respondent: "I paid down my mortgage and didn't run up my credit cards, unlike my sisters. Now everyone in my family is turning to me for money."

Said another: "I thought I would be supplementing my grandchildren's college funds. It turns out I was the college fund."

Some people have stopped giving financial help. Among those who closed their checkbook, 57 percent said they felt the money was not being used wisely. More than one-third cited the dent in their own lifestyle.

Hyundai to market hydrogen vehicle next year

DETROIT (AP)—For years, the joke in the auto industry was that a mass-produced car that runs on hydrogen was always a decade away.

That will change next year when Hyundai starts selling a Tucson SUV powered by a hydrogen fuel cell. It will be the first mass-market vehicle of its type to be sold or leased in the U.S.

"These things are now ready for prime time," John Krafcik, Hyundai's North American CEO, said last week. His company plans to announce details of the new Tucson on Wednesday at the Los Angeles Auto Show.

Even as the industry focused on battery-powered and hybrid cars, automakers such as Hyundai, Honda and Toyota kept up research on fuel cells. Now they appear to have conquered obstacles such as high costs, safety concerns and a lack of filling stations. These vehicles could help the companies meet stricter future fuel-economy standards.

Automakers have been dabbling in hydrogen-powered cars since the 1960s. General Motors announced a test fleet of hydrogen-powered Chevy Equinoxes in the mid-2000s, and Honda leased about two-dozen FCX Clarity models for \$600 per month starting in 2005.

President George W. Bush allocated \$1.2 billion for hydrogen research and said in his 2003 State of the Union address: "The first car driven by a child born today could be powered by hydrogen and pollution free." But the program was largely scrapped by the Obama administration, which focused more on battery-powered vehicles.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 15,976.02 +14.32 +0.09%	S&P 1,791.53 -6.65 -0.37%	NASDAQ 3,949.07 -36.90 -0.93%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7525	Philippine Peso	43.5750
Australian Dollar	1.0650	Singapore Dollar	1.2458
British Pound	0.6211	South Korean Won	1,056.0
Canadian Dollar	1.0438	Swiss Franc	0.9127
Chinese Yuan	6.0960	Taiwan Dollar	29.4580
Euro	0.7403	Thailand Baht	31.6000

Nation

Girlfriend says Zimmerman pointed shotgun at her

APOPKA, Fla. (AP)—George Zimmerman was charged with assault Monday after his girlfriend called deputies to the home where they were living and claimed he pointed a shotgun at her during an argument, authorities said.

The girlfriend, Samantha

Scheibe, called 911 in the early afternoon to say that Zimmerman had smashed a glass table, threatened her with the shotgun and ultimately pushed her out of the house, according to an arrest report. After pushing her out, Zimmerman barricaded the door with furniture and re-

fused to leave, saying that he would talk to police by phone, authorities said.

The arrest was the latest legal problem for Zimmerman since he was acquitted last summer of



Zimmerman

criminal charges in the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen. The trial stoked a discussion on racial profiling across the country.

"You point your

gun at my fucking face," Samantha Scheibe is heard telling Zimmerman on a 911 call. "Get out of my house. Do not push me out of my house. Please get out of my house."

Seconds later, she told the dispatcher, "You kidding me? He pushed me out of my house and locked me out. ... He knows how to do this. He knows how to play this game."

Moments later, Zimmerman called 911 from inside the barricaded house to tell his side of the story.

"I have a girlfriend, who for lack of a better word, has gone crazy on me," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman then said he never pulled a gun on his girlfriend, and that it was Scheibe who smashed a table at the home they shared. He also told the dispatcher that Scheibe was pregnant with their child and that she had decided she would raise the

child on her own. When Zimmerman started to leave, "she got mad," he said.

Seminole County Sheriff's Office Deputy Chief Dennis Lemma said at a news conference that Scheibe wasn't pregnant.

Deputies used a key provided by Scheibe to unlock the door and they were able to push through the barricade of items, Lemma said.

"She was very concerned for her own safety especially having the weapon pointed at her and then being pushed out," he said.

Lemma says Zimmerman was compliant and unarmed when deputies came to the house.

"The easiest way to describe it is rather passive. Clearly, he's had the opportunity to encounter situations similar to this in the past," he said.

NASA launches robotic explorer to Mars



NASA's MAVEN, atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket, lifts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Monday, Nov. 18, 2013, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. AP

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's newest robotic explorer, MAVEN, rocketed toward Mars on Monday on a quest to unravel the ancient mystery of the red planet's radical climate change.

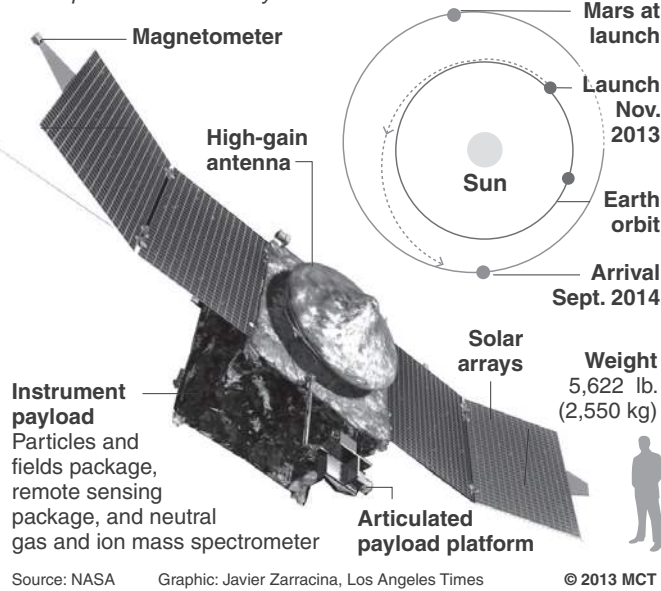
The MAVEN spacecraft is due at Mars next fall following a journey of more than 440 million miles.

"Hey, guys, we're going to Mars!" MAVEN's principal scientist, Bruce Jakosky of the University of Colorado at Boulder, told reporters after liftoff.

Jakosky and others want to know why Mars went from being warm and wet during its first billion years to cold and dry today. The early Martian atmosphere was thick enough to hold water and pos-

Eyes on Mars' atmosphere

A look at NASA's mission MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution), which will research the Red Planet's atmosphere for at least a year.



Source: NASA Graphic: Javier Zarracina, Los Angeles Times © 2013 MCT

sibly support microbial life. But much of that atmosphere may have been lost to space, eroded by the sun.

MAVEN set off through a cloudy afternoon sky in its bid to provide answers. An unmanned Atlas V rocket put the spacecraft on the proper course for Mars, and launch controllers applauded and shook hands over the success.

"What a Monday at the office," NASA project manager David Mitchell said. "Maybe I'm not showing it, but I'm euphoric."

Ten years in the making, MAVEN had Nov. 18, 2013, as its original launch date, "and we hit it," Mitchell said.

"I just want to say, 'Safe travels, MAVEN. We're with you all the way.'"

Jakosky, MAVEN's mastermind, said he was anxious and even shaking as the final seconds of the countdown ticked away. An estimated 10,000 NASA guests gathered for the liftoff—the most exciting one of the year from Cape Canaveral—including a couple thousand representing the University of Colorado.

Surviving liftoff was the first big hurdle, Jakosky said. The next huge milestone will be MAVEN's insertion into orbit around Mars on Sept. 22, 2014.

To help solve Mars' environmental puzzle, MAVEN will spend an entire Earth year measuring atmospheric gases.

This is NASA's 21st mission to Mars since the 1960s. But it's the first one devoted to studying the Martian upper atmosphere.

The mission costs \$671 million.

ACROSS THE NATION

Parents, infant twin sons found dead in Mass. home

ARLINGTON, Mass. (AP)—A husband and wife and their infant twin sons, a week away from celebrating their first birthdays, were found dead at their home on Monday after police were asked to check on them. Authorities released few details about the deaths, but a relative said the couple had experienced marital problems. Arlington police Chief Frederick Ryan said police weren't looking for any suspects and there was no reason for the public to be alarmed. An officer found the bodies in the two-family home in a quiet residential neighborhood in Arlington, just northwest of Boston, around noon. Authorities did not say how long the bodies had been there.

Slain girl's mother: Killer's name to be forgotten

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)—The mother of a 10-year-old Colorado girl whose death and dismemberment terrified a community said Monday the killer doesn't deserve to know how the girl's death affected her, and his name soon will be forgotten. Sarah Ridgeway made her brief comments during a two-day sentencing hearing for 18-year-old Austin Sigg, who has pleaded guilty to kidnapping and killing Jessica Ridgeway. Jessica was walking to school Oct. 5, 2012, when she was abducted in the suburbs west of Denver. Her death galvanized and terrified a community that spent days searching for her.

3 airlifted, dozens treated after Utah

school leak

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A carbon monoxide leak Monday forced the evacuation of a remote Utah elementary school and sent more than 40 students and staff to medical facilities in Utah and Colorado, including two adults who were still hospitalized into the night, officials said. San Juan County spokesman Rick Bailey said three people were flown to Colorado hospitals from the school in Montezuma Creek, a small town on the Navajo Reservation about 15 miles west of the Colorado border. Bailey said one female teacher was being moved from a Cortez, Colo., hospital to a Salt Lake City-area facility Monday night. It was the closest location with a hyperbaric chamber, which is used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning, he said.

NM officer fires at minivan in traffic stop chaos

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Two New Mexico state police officers are under investigation and a mother and her 14-year-old son are facing charges after a routine traffic stop turned to chaos when the teen physically confronted one officer and another officer fired shots at a minivan carrying children. Details of the recent stop emerged when KRQE-TV obtained video from the dashboard camera of the police cruiser that pulled over the family of six for speeding near the northern New Mexico tourist town of Taos. The footage taken Oct. 28 shows driver Oriana Farrell, 39, disobeying the officer's orders, including driving off after being told to take her keys out of the vehicle.

Cheney sisters spar on same-sex marriage

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Former Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife stepped into a sibling squabble Monday after their daughters became involved in a public feud over gay marriage that began on "Fox News Sunday" and soon spread to social media.

Discussing her U.S. Senate campaign on the talk show, Liz Cheney restated her support for the "traditional definition" of marriage. She added that states should be free to decide for themselves whether to allow or prohibit same-sex unions.

Her sister, Mary Cheney, who is married to a woman, shot back on Facebook: "You're just wrong."

Things got testy enough that their parents were compelled to address the matter.

"This is an issue we have dealt with privately for many years, and we are pained to see it become public," read

a statement distributed by Dick and Lynne Cheney.

"Since it has, one thing should be clear," the statement continued.

"Liz has always believed in the traditional definition of marriage. She has also always treated her sister and her sister's family with love and respect, exactly as she should



Liz Cheney



Mary Cheney

Asia

Philippine corruption magnifies effects of typhoon

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—When a newspaper for Filipino workers in New Zealand told readers how to donate to the typhoon relief effort in their homeland, it mentioned agencies like the Red Cross but not a list of government bank accounts that the Philippine Embassy had sent over.

"I'm not going to mince words," said Mel Fernandez, the editorial adviser for the Filipino Migrant News. "We would like every cent to reach those poor people there rather than getting waylaid."

Corruption is a concern after any major natural disaster, as millions of dollars in cash and goods rush in from around the world. But those worries are especially acute in the Philippines, where graft has been a part of life for decades.

The government of President Benigno Aquino III, who has made fighting corruption a priority, is promising full transparency in reconstruction spending in areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Yolanda. It announced Monday that it has established a website called the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub where funds given by foreign donors can be tracked.

"There's an urgent call now



A plea for help in SOS is painted on a road in an aerial view from a U.S. Navy Seahawk helicopter over San Jose, Philippines, Monday, Nov. 18, 2013. AP

for us to monitor the movement of foreign aid funds for Yolanda so they will go exactly where they're supposed to: to the survivors of the typhoon," Undersecretary of Budget and Management and Chief Information Officer Richard Moya said in a statement.

■■■■■
TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—A Roman Catholic priest has led dozens of displaced typhoon survivors on a march through this shattered city

aimed at boosting spirits.

The marchers sang "We shall overcome" as they toured parts of Tacloban on Tuesday.

More 5,000 people were killed or left missing by the Nov. 8 storm and an estimated 360,000 displaced.

A major international relief mission is underway to help the survivors, many of whom will be dependent on aid for months to come.

The United Nation's humanitarian chief said she was im-

pressed with developments in the region over the last week.

Valerie Amos says she was "really delighted that so much progress has been made, so much more aid is going out, and the people are getting the vital supplies that they need."

■■■■■

More than \$270 million in foreign aid has been donated to help the victims of the Nov. 8 typhoon, which killed at least 3,976 people and left nearly 1,600 missing, according to gov-

ernment figures updated Monday. More than 4 million people have been displaced and need food, shelter and water. The typhoon also wrecked livelihoods on a massive scale, destroying crops, livestock, coconut plantations and fishing boats.

Several battered communities appeared to be shifting from survival mode to one of early recovery Monday. Markets were reopening, though with very limited wares. Some gasoline stations were pumping and residents

were repairing damaged homes or making temporary shelters out of the remains of their old ones.

"The darkest night is over but it's not yet 100 percent," regional military commander Lt. Gen. Roy Deveraturda said.

On Sunday, Aquino toured the disaster area and promised to step up aid deliveries.

Aquino said he was happy to see typhoon-battered areas slowly rising from the devastation. The aid effort remained daunting, he said, adding that the government is feeding about 1.4 million people a day.

"One is tempted to despair," Aquino told reporters in Alan-galang town in Leyte province, where he met with officials and survivors. "But the minute I despair, then everybody gets hampered in the efforts to get up."

Presidential spokesman Ricky Carandang said Aquino would stay for a second night in Tacloban city and visit more typhoon-battered towns on Tuesday.

In one sign of how much work is ahead, Energy Secretary Jericho Petilla pledged to restore power in all typhoon-battered regions by Dec. 24, a job that will require erecting about 160 giant power transmission towers and thousands of electrical posts toppled by the typhoon. He said he will resign if he fails.

Roadside bombs in Afghanistan kill 9 children

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Two separate roadside bombs killed nine children in Afghanistan on Monday, while six bodies found the day before in a restive southern province were identified as policemen and not contractors as was initially reported, officials said.

A roadside bomb killed seven children from the same family in eastern Afghanistan's Paktika province, said the governor's spokesman Mokhlis Afghan. Another three children in the family were wounded. The children were playing on a road near their

home when the bomb exploded.

In a separate incident in southern Zabul province, two children were killed when their family's vehicle hit a roadside bomb, Zabul's deputy governor, Mohammed Jan Rasoolyar said. The family was traveling to the provincial capital of Qalat for shopping. The father was wounded along with a third child, Rasoolyar said.

Roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices are among the deadliest weapons in the insurgents' arsenal but they often kill civilians.

Rasoolyar also said that authorities identified the six bodies, all decapitated, as policemen. Confusion arose over the bodies found Sunday in neighboring Kandahar province because they were in civilian clothes.

The policemen had disappeared several days earlier from Zabul, apparently abducted by the Taliban and taken to Kandahar. With limited means for forensic identification, it took the police nearly a full day to resolve the confusion, Rasoolyar said.

The Taliban have repeatedly warned Afghans against joining

the government or the military and police forces. Hundreds of Afghan policemen have been killed this year in ambushes, targeted killings and bombings.

Also Monday, police in Kandahar—the birthplace of the Taliban—stopped a tractor hauling roadside bombs, said Javid Faisal, the provincial governor's spokesman.

A firefight erupted as the police tried to stop the vehicle near the border with Pakistan, he said. The shooting set off the bombs, killing the driver and a second person on the tractor.

Damaged Japan nuke plant begin removing fuel rods

TOKYO (AP)—Workers started removing radioactive fuel rods Monday from a reactor building at the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said. The painstaking and risky task is a crucial first step toward a full cleanup of the earthquake and tsunami-damaged plant in north-eastern Japan.

The Unit 4 reactor was offline at the time of the March 2011 disaster, and its core didn't melt as Units 1-3 did. But hydrogen explosions blew the roof and walls off the Unit 4 building and weakened the structure, leaving it vulnerable to earthquakes.

Tokyo Electric, known as TEPCO, has since reinforced the building, but experts say keeping so many fuel rods in a storage pool in the building still poses a major safety risk.

"The operation is an important step toward decommissioning Fukushima Dai-ichi, which would take 30-40 years," TEPCO President Naomi Hirose said in a video message on the company's website.

TEPCO has built a massive

steel structure next to and partly over Unit 4 to mount cranes for the operation. It will take at least until the end of 2014 to finish moving the 1,533 sets of fuel rods, including 202 unused sets, to a safer location. Each set includes about 60-80 fuel rods containing uranium-based fuel pellets.

TEPCO will remove the unused fuel rods first, and will then move on to the more radioactive spent fuel. At the very end it will remove three sets of rods that are slightly damaged. The storage pools in Units 1-4 contain a total of 80 sets of rods with slight damage, most of which occurred years ago.

TEPCO spokesman Noriyuki Imaizumi said a group of six workers safely stored four sets of fuel rods in a cask on Monday. No problems were reported.

The operation is delicate. Experts say the fuel rod sets may have been damaged or jammed by small pieces of debris that fell into the pool during the explosions. Some have also raised concern about a major earthquake hitting during the removal work.

ASIA BRIEFS

Death toll in Vietnam flooding raised to 41

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—The death toll from flooding caused by heavy rains in central Vietnam has risen to 41, with about 80,000 people forced from their homes, disaster officials said Tuesday. The National Floods and Storms Control Agency said in a statement that the floods had affected more than 400,000 houses, but added the flood waters have mostly receded, allowing many residents to return home. The heavy rains began Nov. 14. The officials said the deaths occurred in six central provinces. Binh Dinh was the worst-hit province with 18 people dead. Another five people are missing. The floods also injured 74 people and damaged 4,300 hectares (10,625 acres) of rice paddies and other crops, the agency said. Vietnam is prone to floods and storms, with hundreds of people killed each year.

Pakistan begins treason process against Musharraf

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's Supreme Court says the government has formally started the process to try former president and army chief Pervez Musharraf for treason. The court says the government sent a letter Monday asking Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry to choose three high court judges to try Musharraf. The government announced Sunday it planned to try Musharraf for

treason for declaring a state of emergency and suspending the constitution while in power. Musharraf would be the first army chief tried for treason in a country that has experienced three military coups. Musharraf's spokesman lashed out at the government, saying it was an attempt to malign the military. The former president seized power in a coup in 1999 and ruled for almost a decade until he was forced to step down in 2008.

Imelda Marcos aide convicted in NY of Monet sale

NEW YORK (AP)—A former aide to ex-Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos has been convicted in New York of conspiracy in the sale of a \$32 million Claude Monet painting the Philippines government says it owns. The Manhattan district attorney said Monday that Vilma Bautista also was found guilty of tax fraud and of using a fake document to authorize her sale of the painting. The 1899 water lily painting was among four works that came into Bautista's possession after the fall of Ferdinand Marcos' government in 1986. She sold it in 2010 to a London gallery. Defense lawyers said Bautista believed Imelda Marcos owned the paintings and Bautista had authority to sell them for her, though she never turned over the proceeds. Ownership is being determined in civil courts.

World

In perilous nighttime trek, Syrians flee fighting

ARSAL, Lebanon (AP)—The two sisters squeezed the hands of their blind grandfather for nearly seven hours as they made the perilous nighttime trek by foot along rugged mountain roads subjected to sporadic shelling before finally crossing the Syrian border to safety in Lebanon.

Mehrez Humeidan and his granddaughters Ikram and Inaam were among at least 6,000 Syrians that the United Nations says have poured into Lebanon over the past three days. The refugees are escaping a government offensive that began Friday and aims to dislodge rebels from the mountainous Qalamoun region, which runs north from Damascus along the frontier.

Qalamoun holds strategic value for both sides in Syria's civil war. It serves as a key supply route from Lebanon to opposition forces around Damascus, and it is home to the main north-south highway that links the capital to government

strongholds along the Mediterranean coast.

The offensive is part of a broader government push that has seen Assad's forces seize the momentum in the civil war, capturing a string of opposition-held suburbs south of Damascus as well as two towns and a military base around the northern city of Aleppo.

The battlefield gains have strengthened the government's hand as the world community pushes for peace talks in Geneva.

The town of Qara, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Damascus along the highway in Qalamoun, has borne the brunt of the government offensive so far. On Monday, government warplanes and artillery pounded the town and surrounding countryside, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which uses a network of activists to monitor the conflict.

Mehrez Humeidan, 70, recounted his family's escape as he rested in a restaurant-



Mehrez Humeidan, 70, who is visually impaired, sits between his granddaughters Ikram, 8, left, and Inaam, 10, right, inside a restaurant after they fled into the eastern Lebanese border town of Arsal, Lebanon, Monday, Nov. 18, 2013. AP

turned-shelter for some 200 refugees in the Lebanese frontier town of Arsal.

"We walked at night and it was a very difficult road. Look how my feet were injured

by thorns" he said, his head wrapped in a white cloth as he shivered under a blanket.

He said he and his relatives set out from Qara around 6 p.m. Friday and walked for nearly

seven hours under shellfire until a man passing in a vehicle gave them a ride to Arsal.

"Don't ask me about the shelling," he said. "It was beyond explanation."

His granddaughters, Ikram, 8, and Inaam, 10, nestled up next to him as they talked about their journey.

"I was holding grandfather's hand all the way and telling him how to walk and whether there is a step," said Inaam, who like her sister was bundled up against the first winter chill.

The opposition was dealt another blow on Monday when the

leader of one of the most prominent rebel brigades, Abdul-Qadir Saleh, died of wounds sustained in a government airstrike last week. Saleh founded the Tawhid Brigade, which boasts an estimated 10,000 fighters and spearheaded fighting that seized large sections of the northern city of Aleppo last year.

The brigade was once part of the mainstream Free Syrian Army, considered to be the military wing of Syria's exiled Western-backed opposition. But in September, the brigade broke away and later formed the Islamic Authority, a coalition of Islamic rebel groups, including one linked to al-Qaida.

On Thursday night, a government airstrike hit the brigade's command post in Aleppo province, according to local activists and the Observatory. The 34-year-old Saleh was severely wounded and later died in a hospital in Turkey, said a brigade spokesman who goes by the name of Akram al-Halaby. Many rebels do not use their real names, fearing they or their families will be identified and targeted by security forces.

Toronto council strips mayor of most powers

TORONTO (AP)—Amid cries of "Shame! Shame!" scandal-plagued Toronto Mayor Rob Ford was stripped of the last of his meaningful powers Monday after a heated City Council debate in which he argued with members of the public, charged hecklers and knocked a councilwoman down.

Ford called the move a "coup d'etat" and vowed an "outright war" in next year's mayoral election.

"What's happening here today is not a democratic process, it's a dictatorship process," the 44-year-old mayor declared.

The council lacks the power to remove Ford from office unless he is convicted of a crime. Instead, members sought the strongest recourse available after recent revelations that Ford smoked crack cocaine and his repeated outbursts of erratic behavior.

The council voted overwhelmingly in favor of slashing Ford's office budget by 60 percent and allowing his staff to move to the deputy mayor, who now takes on many of the mayor's former powers. Ford now effectively has no legislative power and no longer chairs the executive committee, although he retains his title and ability to represent Toronto at official functions.

The debate became raucous after Ford paced around the council chamber and traded barbs with members of the public. The speaker asked security to clear the gallery and a recess was called, but not before Ford barreled toward his detractors, mowing into Councilor Pam McConnell.

Another councilor asked Ford to apologize. Ford said he was rushing to the defense of his brother, Councilor Doug Ford,



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is shown in a video frame grab as he knocks down Councilor Pam McConnell as he ran toward hecklers in the audience at City Hall on Monday, Nov. 18, 2013. AP

and accidentally knocked McConnell down.

"I picked her up," he said. "I ran around because I thought my brother was getting into an altercation."

Visibly shaken after Ford ran her over, McConnell, a petite woman in her 60s, said she

never expected the chaos that broke out.

"This is the seat of democracy. It is not a football field. I just wasn't ready. Fortunately, the mayor's staff was in front. They stopped me from hitting my head against the wall. I just need to sit down," McConnell said.

Video shows near-vertical crash of Russian plane

KAZAN, Russia (AP)—The grainy airport video is dark, short and chilling. Within five seconds, a dot of light that Russian authorities say is a Boeing 737 appears in the sky over the tarmac and plunges to the ground in a near-vertical crash. The result is a blinding fireball.

The video shown Monday by Russian television stations—<http://www.youtube.com/watch?vvgGHRMJuxRs>—of Sunday night's horrifying crash at Kazan airport that killed all 50 people onboard raises a host of questions, including why the plane's second attempt to land

at night in good weather went so horribly wrong.

Russian investigators combed through the incinerated wreckage Monday after fire crews spent hours extinguishing the blaze. Experts from the NTSB, Boeing and the FAA were heading to the scene to help.

The Boeing 737 belonging to Tatarstan Airlines was making its second attempt at a landing in Kazan, 720 kilometers (520 miles) east of Moscow, according to Alexander Poltinin, head of the local branch of Russia's Investigative Committee.

The traffic controller at the

Kazan airport who contacted the plane before the crash said the crew told him they weren't ready to land as it was approaching but didn't specify the problem.

Marat Zaripov, deputy head of the local branch of the Investigative Committee, initially told reporters that his team would look into all theories, including a terrorist attack. But the Investigative Committee said in a statement later Monday that it was now considering three possible causes: a technical fault, a pilot error or adverse weather conditions.

Politin said it could take weeks to identify the remains.

Investigators have found both of the plane's black boxes—which record the plane's performance and the crew's conversations—but said they were damaged.

The brief video taken by an airport security camera showed the plane going down at high speed at a nearly vertical angle and then hitting the ground and exploding. It was confirmed as authentic to The Associated Press by the emergency press service at Kazan airport and other Russian officials.

Public exhibit of St. Peter relics revives debate

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican's decision to publicly exhibit the purported relics of the Apostle Peter for the first time has spotlighted the intense scientific debate over whether the bones actually belong to the first pope.

Pope Francis on Sunday will preside over a Mass in St. Peter's Square at which an urn containing the relics will be shown for public veneration. The urn is usually kept in the Apostolic Palace for private veneration by popes, but it will be publicly displayed for the first time to mark the end of the church's "Year of Faith."

This is the only such exhibit now planned.

No pontiff has ever definitively declared the bones to be Peter's, though Pope Paul VI in 1968 said fragments found in the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica were "identified in a way that we can consider convincing."

Some prominent Vatican archaeologists disagreed, and debate continues today much as it has over the authenticity of the

Shroud of Turin.

A senior Vatican official, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, acknowledged the debate Monday but suggested it barely matters if scientists eventually determine the bones aren't Peter's since Christians have venerated them for two millennia and will continue to do so, regardless.

"We want to highlight the theological value of this," he told reporters. "Then, correctly, archaeologists will do all their research. And we will be happy if even one day we were to arrive at an even clearer decision from the scientific point of view."

But he stressed: "We believe. We believe this. Faith, the devotion of the people of God, have always held that these were the relics of the Apostle Peter. And in this way we continue to venerate them and give them the honor they deserve."

The general public can visit the tomb of St. Peter in the necropolis under the basilica, where Francis prayed in the weeks after he became pope, the first pontiff to visit the tomb.

Focus



Typhoon survivors do their laundry along a roadside, Sunday Nov. 17, 2013 at typhoon-ravaged Tacloban city, Leyte province in central Philippines.

AP

Filipinos start over in city wiped out by typhoon

By **ALEXANDRA ZAVIS**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TACLOBAN, Philippines—Rising from a sea of debris, the small, rickety shell of a new house already was beginning to take shape.

Rolito Solayao worked swiftly Monday, using pieces of wood and nails scavenged from the wreckage of this coastal city. His wife swept dirt from the concrete floor, the only part of their home that survived when Typhoon Haiyan tore through the central Philippines on Nov. 8.

Asked her name, she let out a weary laugh: Yolanda, the name Filipinos gave to the storm.

More than a week after one of the most powerful storms on record, there are signs that life is returning to what just days ago was described by traumatized residents as a dead city.

The sound of hammering reverberates through flattened neighborhoods. Small stands have appeared in front of shuttered stores, offering bottles of soda, dried fish and bananas. Some gas stations have opened, bringing motorcycles and cars back to the streets. Piped water and cellphone communications have been partially restored. And international relief efforts are ramping up.

But even in a country long used to natural disasters, the scale of the devastation is staggering.

Life will be very different now. Virtually every building in Tacloban was damaged or destroyed. Great piles of broken wood, metal sheeting and upended vehicles block many streets. Laundry hangs from downed power lines void of electricity, and families sleep under makeshift tents amid the ruins of their homes.

Wafting from beneath the rubble, the stench of trapped and unclaimed bodies is at times overpowering.

Yolanda Solayao is still looking for her mother and sister. They refused to leave the family home when Solayao evacuated with her husband and seven children to San Jose Central School.

"If we find them, they will already be dead," said Solayao, who was still in the clothes she was wearing the morning of the typhoon.

Their neighborhood is on a narrow peninsula in southeast Tacloban and was buffeted by storm surges from two directions. Even the evacuation center flooded, sending panicked residents scrambling to the second floor, Solayao said.

When the water subsided, their home, and most of the neighborhood, was gone.

The family would move if they could, Solayao said. But they don't have the means, or relatives who can help. The fact that she shared a name with the storm only adds to the hurt.

"I can never forget this tragedy," she said.

In all, between 10 million and 12.9 million people were affected when the storm hit the island nation in the Western Pacific, according to the latest government and United Nations estimates. They include at least 3,976 killed, 1,598 missing and 4 million displaced.

Most of the casualties were on the islands of Leyte and Samar, which were hit by the massive storm surges. The city of Tacloban, the Leyte provincial capital, was the worst hit.

Although the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean affected a much wider geographic area, the impact on individual cities such as Tacloban is comparable, said Ben Hemingway, a regional adviser with the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"One is tempted to despair," President Benigno Aquino III told reporters Monday as he toured hard-hit rural communities near Tacloban that are just beginning to receive attention.

Under fire for what critics describe as a slow response to the disaster, Aquino announced over the weekend that he would stay in the city for a while to oversee the relief efforts.

Though he praised the response of some local authorities, he questioned why other places had borne the brunt of

the casualties, suggesting that they might not have done a good job preparing for the storm or responding once it hit.

Tacloban's mayor, Alfred Romualdez, told the BBC that the city's first responders were "victims too" and that the city was "on its knees." Many city employees are only beginning to report for duty; others remain unaccounted for.

In the seafront neighborhood of San Fernando Magallanes, an elderly woman covered her nose with a scarf as she gingerly made her way across a field of debris covering several blocks and rising more than 3 feet high. A child's muddy teddy bear rested amid the rubble, along with other remnants of a once-vibrant community of fishermen, shopkeepers and government workers.

Residents said many people decided not to heed the government's advice to evacuate.

"The only news I had is that a typhoon was coming, not a tidal wave," explained Maximo Roa Jr., who used to drive a delivery van. "We are used to typhoons."

In fact, relatives came to his house to ride out the storm because they were afraid of mudslides in their area. When the surge hit, the family waded through chest-high water to shelter at a neighbor's two-story home.

It took Roa's wife, Analiza, more than a week to scrub all the mud out of their home and clothing. He managed to salvage

some metal sheeting to repair the roof, but had to weigh it down with sandbags because he couldn't find any nails.

This weekend the couple collected their first aid package, which included rice, noodles and sardines. They say their children keep asking when they will leave. But as long as there is food and security, they are hopeful that the city will eventually recover.

"This is my home," Roa said. "This is where I grew up. This is where my mother grew up."

Around the corner at San Fernando Central School, the future appeared dark to Brigitte Trinidad, who has worked as a singer, dance instructor and city office worker.

For Trinidad, "home" is now a green plastic bench on the school veranda. Inside the classrooms, scores of displaced families have carved out living spaces by stringing up sheets and building walls out of salvaged furniture.

Before the storm hit, Trinidad evacuated her two children to the school. But she thought she could remain safe in her house with her boyfriend because it was made of concrete.

Instead, a giant wave crashed through a wall and washed them away. Seconds later, she said, the house collapsed. The pair grabbed hold of the skeleton of another house and held on for dear life. Debris carried by the raging floodwaters cut their arms and legs.

When they thought they couldn't hang on any longer, the water subsided enough for their feet to touch the ground. They climbed over a neighbor's wall and took refuge on his roof.

Trinidad said she doesn't sleep well anymore. There is no privacy at the school, and she just lies awake, worrying.

"We are thankful we survived, but how will we stand again?" she asked. "We are just only waiting for help."

The government and international relief agencies are discussing plans to put up tents so schools like this one can be cleared out for classes to resume. There is also talk of cash-for-work programs to help get the economy going. But officials say it will take months, if not years, for the city to get back on its feet.

Although access in the city has improved with the clearing of the main roads, government work crews, hampered by shortages of equipment and personnel, haven't started on the side streets. Residents are banding together in some areas to haul away debris and burn it.

Few stores are open. The storm wiped most of them out, and the owners say they are afraid they will be looted if they invest in new stock and infrastructure.

Michelle Mataro spent her day Sunday waiting in one long distribution line after another. Her house was mostly destroyed, so she is sleeping in a minibus that came to rest nearby.

She picked up two large bottles of water at one site, but there was no food on offer, she said. Another site was handing out blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. She said she waited two hours in that line only to be told that supplies had run out.

"That's how we live our life now," she said as she hurried off in the rain.

Campus Life

ESFDB celebrates Veterans Day with prayer vigil

Veterans Day is a day of remembrance and to honor those who have served, past or present.

The 6th to 8th grade students at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja took time from their academic schedule to pay tribute to the nation's veterans.

The tribute and prayer vigil was led by the Student Council officers and the 6th to 8th grade Social Studies classes.

This annual celebration gives students the opportunity to honor military members who have died serving their country, and to thank those living veterans who served honorably in war-time and in peacetime.

In their Social Studies class, the students are challenged to aspire to similar dedication to purpose and to service in all their future efforts, including at school. It highlights the heroism of those who fought in combat, which Veterans Day explicitly recognizes, and the heroism of those who serve in non-combat roles. The challenge is clear, accepting the role of service to others is an act of heroism, and our freedoms depend on the everyday heroism defined by our veterans.

"We should honor and recognize the heroism and sacrifice of our nation's veterans, most es-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The student council officers and 6th to 8th grade students display the U.S. flag honoring past and present U.S. veterans.

pecially our Rota veterans. Also, we are praying for the safety of our beloved principal's son, TJ

Hocog Atalig, that he would be safe from harm's way and that our teacher Mr. Ed [Maratita

Jr.] would not leave our school to fight someone's war," said Student Council president An-

gelica Lucero.

"We should be proud of our local veterans. They leave our

tiny island to serve a nation. I am proud of my uncle, Roman Calvo, my uncle TJ H. Atalig, and Mr. Ed," added Student Council secretary Tyra Reese Calvo.

"We want to honor the fallen soldiers, as well as honor current service members and those who fought so hard to keep this country free and keep it one nation under God. And I pray to God that my uncle Edward Barcinas would be safe and Mr. Ed not leave us," said Student Council public relations officer Marnecia Hope Hocog.

"It gives us a chance to honor those who have fought to make our country free," added Student Council treasurer Metka Mendiola.

Asked what Veterans Day means to him, sixth-grader Angelo Lucero said, "We honor all those that served in the military like the Revolutionary War in the past and those that fought other wars."

According to Carmen Atalig, ESFDB administrator/principal, "I am extremely touched by the Student Council officers and the 6th to 8th grade Social Studies class for honoring and praying for all of our veterans, past and present. Their reverence was wonderful." (*Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja*)

LA students get iPads, crack firewall, play games

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Education officials in the nation's second-largest school district are working to reboot a \$1 billion plan to put an iPad in the hands of each of their 650,000 students after an embarrassing glitch emerged when the first round of tablets went out.

Instead of solving math problems or doing English homework, as administrators envisioned, more than 300 Los Angeles Unified School District students promptly cracked the security settings and started tweeting, posting to Facebook and playing video games.

"'Temple Run.' 'Subway Surfing.' Oh, and some car racing game I can't remember the name of," said freshman Stephany Romero, laughing as she described the games she saw fellow Roosevelt High School students playing in class last week.

That incident, and related problems, had both critics and supporters questioning this week whether LAUSD officials were being hasty or overreaching in their attempt to distribute an iPad to every student and teacher at the district's more than 1,000 campuses by next year.

"It doesn't seem like there was much planning that went into this strategy," said Renee



This Oct. 1, 2013 photo showing Roosevelt High School students Carlos Espinoza and Maria Aguilera talk during an interview in Los Angeles.

Hobbs, director of the Harrington School of Communication and Media at the University of Rhode Island. "That's where the debacle began."

It's crucial, she said, to spend extensive time drawing students into a discussion on using iPads responsibly before handing them out. And, of course, installing a firewall that can't be

easily breached.

At Roosevelt High, it was the unanimous opinion of more than a dozen students that the school district's security setup was so weak that even the most tech-challenged parent could have gotten past it.

"It was so easy!" said freshman Carlos Espinoza.

He explained that all one

needed to do was access the tablet's settings, delete the profile established by the school district and set up an Internet connection. He did it, he said, because he wanted to go on Facebook.

"They kind of should have known this would happen," said Espinoza's friend Maria Aguilera.

"We're high school students

after all. I mean, come on," she added.

As word spread, with the speed of a microprocessor, that anyone could crack the firewall, officials quickly confiscated the devices and put a freeze on using them off campus. In the meantime, they promised to improve the security settings.

When they started distributing the iPads at 47 district schools in August, administrators touted the move as a means of leveling the academic playing field in a public school system where 80 percent of the students come from low-income families.

Now, they said, everyone would have equal access to the most cutting-edge educational software programs, not just the children of parents with deep pockets.

But after the first shot in that digital revolution led to a flood of tweets, other concerns arose.

Among them:

■ Who pays if a kid drops one of these \$678 gadgets into a toilet or leaves it on a bus?

■ Is it realistic to tell a student she can use it to do her homework, then not allow the device to connect to the Internet from home? (Schools will be wired.)

■ And since the tablet without Web access is only as good as the educational software placed on it, how good is that software?

A parent, Scott Folsom, said he heard from one source that families would have to pay for broken iPads and from another that the school would.

District officials have said there was confusion over that issue but that it's been decided schools will cover the cost of an iPad accidentally broken, lost or stolen, while families are on the hook for one negligently damaged.

Of more serious concern to Folsom is the software. He sampled one of the new iPads, he said, and found no program to adequately support English-as-a-second-language students. That would seemingly be crucial for a district whose students are 73 percent Hispanic and where only 14 percent of English learners can speak the language fluently, according to a 2011 Department of Education study.

As a parent representative to the district's bond oversight committee, Folsom voted to recommend spending \$30 million last June to buy the first batch of iPads. He says he still supports the program but worries that maybe educators are trying to implement it too quickly.

"This is the future," he said. "But whether LAUSD is stepping too quickly into the future—based on the fact that it's so big, and we seem to be in such a hurry—those are questions to consider."

Life & Style

700 fans camp out for 'Catching Fire' premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The latest "Hunger Games" are yet to begin, but the fans have already arrived in force.

Seven hundred fans of the popular book trilogy spent the weekend camped out on the concrete in front of L.A. Live plaza, and they were rewarded with games, celebrity meetings and tickets to Monday's premiere of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

"I'm floored!" said Alyce Kozar, 24, who said she just joined the fan camp "to be with those sharing my fandom."

The Los Angeles resident bonded instantly with 23-year-old Jemmie Yamson of Minneapolis, whom she met when the camp began, and now the two are planning to travel to Comic-Con together.

Fan camp participants won their spots in an online lottery. The camp began Saturday morning, when fans were split into "districts," echoing a tenet from the books. They were responsible for their own tents and sleeping gear, but Lionsgate, which also hosted a fan camp for the first "Hunger Games" film, provided diversions such as cast visits and contests. Director Francis

Lawrence and star Josh Hutcherson were among the stars who dropped by during the two-and-a-half-day campout.

Fans brought their own handmade posters, and many carried copies of the second book in the series by Suzanne Collins.

Danny Hernandez of Azusa, Calif., was among those with book (and Sharpie) in hand. He applied for the fan camp so he might get a chance to see the film early, but found connecting with fellow fans even more rewarding.

"The coolest thing was meeting all of these people," the 29-year-old said, adding that he had come alone but now belonged to a group of 10, who planned to watch the film together.

Cheyenne Deen of Las Vegas convinced her mom and sister to travel to Los Angeles for the camping adventure. The 22-year-old and her friend, 19-year-old Michelle Mota, came to the first "Hunger Games" fan camp and also slept on the sidewalk for the "Twilight" premieres.

They have a tip for fan-camp folks: "Never leave the camp because there's always something going on."

'Spider-Man' show to close on Broadway; Vegas next

NEW YORK (AP)—Producers are turning the lights off forever on the Spider-Man musical on Broadway early next year, the final chapter in the story of most expensive theatrical show ever that shook off a troubled launch to become a hit and is now limping away to Las Vegas.

Rick Miramontez, a spokesman for the show, said in a statement late Monday that "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" will end its run in January and will next appear in Vegas. "Further details will be announced in the weeks to come," he said.

The show's box office take—once putting it among Broadway's biggest earners—sprung a leak this summer and never recovered. It last broke the \$1 million mark in mid-August and has limped through a dismal fall. Producers had said it needed to make \$1.2 million a week just to break even.

Last week the show took in just \$742,595, less than half its \$1,543,508 potential despite a Foxwoods Theatre that was three-quarters full. The show is now routinely discounting tickets and a move to a smaller venue doesn't make financial sense.

The lease to the massive Foxwoods changed hands in May from Live Nation Entertainment to the Ambassador Theatre Group for about \$60 million. The new owner may end

up with a new tenant: A musical of "King Kong" that's currently in Australia.

"Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" was Broadway's most expensive show with a price tag of \$75 million and had a rocky start, with six delays in its opening night, injuries to several actors, a shake-up that led to the firing of original director Julie Taymor and critical drubbing.

A future home for the show has swirled for months as its earnings dipped. A touring version had been initially discussed but a permanent home always seemed a better fit for a show that has loads of aerial acrobatics, high tech sets and digital projections.

One thing that has stood in the way of a move away from Broadway was the legal uncertainty that clouded its future. Taymor, the original "Spider-Man" director and co-book writer, was fired in 2011 after years of delays, accidents and critical backlash.

Taymor slapped the producers, led by Michael Cohl and Jeremiah J. Harris, as well as Glen Berger, her former co-book writer, with a federal copyright infringement lawsuit, alleging they violated her creative rights and hadn't compensated her for the work she put into the show. The producers' filed a counterclaim asserting the copyright claims were baseless. A settlement was announced in April.



The two participated in a scavenger hunt and collected autographs from Hutcherson and others.

Deen's mother, Elaine, who'd never attended a fan camp before, was dazzled to near speechlessness.

"I'm star-struck," she said.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" opens Friday.

Elizabeth Banks, Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson attend the LA premiere of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" on Monday, Nov. 18, 2013 in Los Angeles.

AP

In Loving Memory

† Maria Corazon Pineda SanNicolas

Born to life on June 13, 1987 and was called to her eternal rest on November 14, 2013

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Joseph Vincent Guiao SanNicolas
Son: Jaze Enzo Pineda SanNicolas
Parents: Ramon and Maria Consolacion Ocampo Pineda
Parents In-Law: †Pedro Camacho SanNicolas
 Rosario Guiao SanNicolas
Brother, Sister and In-Laws:
 Jeffrey O. Pineda and Rannie O. Pineda
 Francis Robin G. and Shyaralyn SanNicolas
 Peter John G. and Irish Ann SanNicolas
 Antonette G. SanNicolas

She is additionally survived by:

**Camacho – SanNicolas Families,
 Guiao Families,
 Ocampo - Pineda Families,
 and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.**

Daily Mass of intentions will be celebrated at the following:

Santa Remedios Church

Monday, November 18, 2013	6:00PM
Wednesday, November 20, 2013	6:00PM
Friday, November 22, 2013	6:00PM
Saturday, November 23, 2013	6:00PM

San Roque Church

Tuesday, November 19, 2013	6:00PM
Thursday, November 21, 2013	6:00PM
Sunday, November 24, 2013	9:30AM

Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers.

**Joseph Vincent Guiao SanNicolas and Son
 Pineda - SanNicolas Families**



15 gift-worthy coffee table books for the holidays

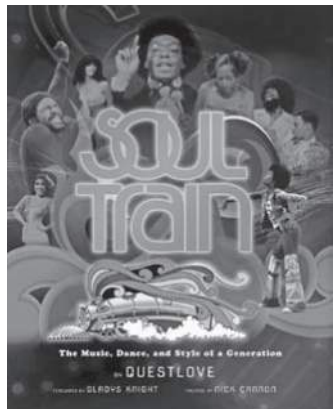
NEW YORK (AP)—The holidays bring out the inner-coffee table book obsessive in gift buyers. They're easy, weighty and satisfying to give. You've done your job with your pricey treat.

A few to consider for music lovers, history buffs, foodies, fashionistas and more:

MUSIC

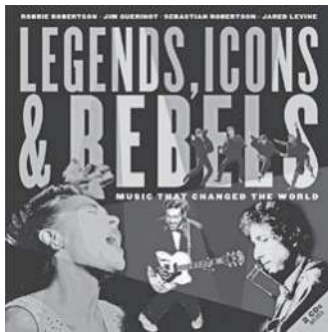


"The Beatles: The BBC Archives: 1962-1970," by Kevin Howlett, Harper Design, \$60. The Fab Four's years on air at home, as told in transcripts of interviews, photos and internal documents. Coincides with the November release of a new album, "On Air—at the BBC, Volume 2."



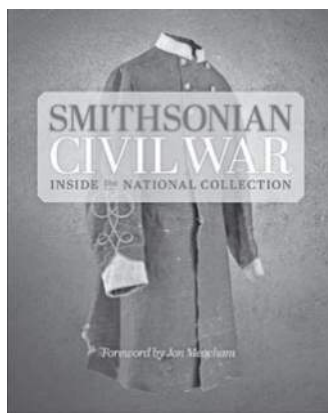
"Soul Train: The Music, Dance and Style of a Generation," by Questlove, Harper Design, \$45. Aretha, Smokey, Ike and Tina, Marvin, Michael, Diana—and plenty of photos and text covering the work of Don Cornelius, host of the longest running syndicated program in TV history. The frontman for the Roots takes us on the journey through the show's debut in 1971 to 1993, the final episode Cornelius, the creator, hosted.

"Legends, Icons & Rebels: Music that Changed the World," by Robbie Robertson, Jim

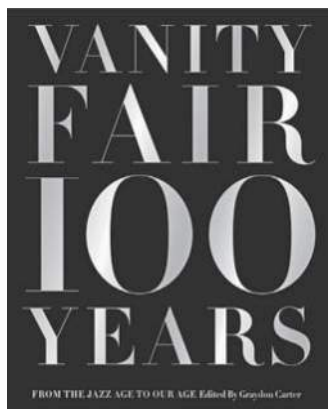


Guerinot, Sebastian Robertson and Jared Levine, Tundra Books, \$29. For young readers, the music industry vets offer an introduction to 27 legends, including James Brown, Curtis Mayfield, Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye and Otis Redding. Includes two CDs totaling 27 tracks.

HISTORY & MEDIA



"Smithsonian Civil War: Inside the National Collection," edited by Neil Kagan and Stephen G. Hyslop, Smithsonian Books, \$40. From the story of Winchester, the swift-footed horse of Union commander Philip Sheridan, to Winslow Homer sketches.



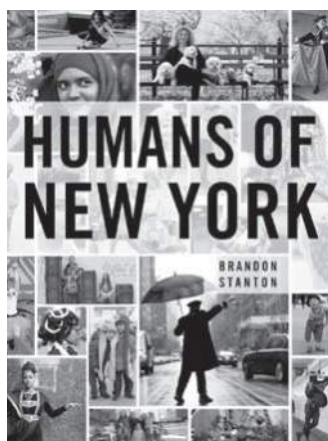
"Vanity Fair 100 Years: From the Jazz Age to Our Age," edited by Graydon Carter, Abrams,

\$65. Anything you ever wanted to know about the magazine in archival black-and-white, color covers and illustrations, all spanning the arts, war and politics.

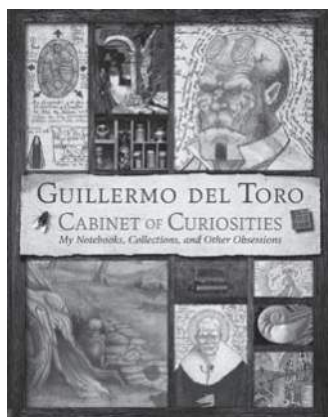


"Vietnam: The Real War," by The Associated Press, \$40. Mostly black-and-white, up-close photography of the fog and debris of war, including an injured John McCain and the cut of a knife into the belly of a Viet Cong prisoner under interrogation by a South Vietnamese soldier.

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY



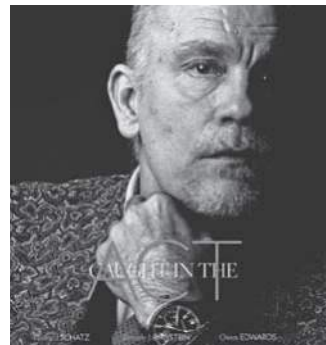
"Humans of New York," by Brandon Stanton, St. Martin's Press, \$29.99. Includes 400 color portraits from the meandering chronicler of the New York condition.



"Guillermo del Toro, Cabinet of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections and Other Obsessions," by del Toro and Marc Scott Zicree, Harper Design, \$60. Notebooks, sketches and interviews from the mind of the "Hellboy" and "Pan's Labyrinth" creator. Thoughts from Neil Gaiman, Ron Perlman and others.



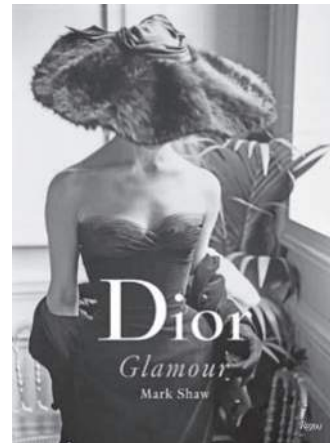
"The Wizard of Oz: The Official 75th Anniversary Companion," by Jay Scarfone and William Stillman, Harper Design, \$40. Production stills, munchkin and Dorothy hair and wardrobe tests. Mock certificates for a brain, courage, heart and home are included in a back envelope of memorabilia, along with a death certificate for the Wicked Witch of the East.



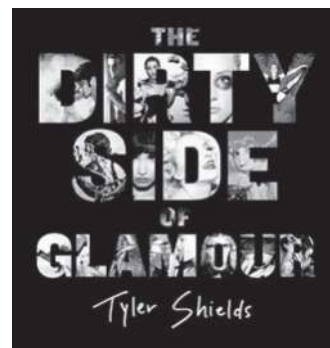
"Caught in the Act: Actors Acting," by Howard Schatz, Beverly J. Ornstein and Owen Edwards, Glitterati Inc., \$65. Portraiture by Schatz with oral histories and improvisation at his direction. See Sam Waterston respond to the prompt: "You're a dairy farmer who hates cows, hates milk and hates getting up at 4 a.m. seven days a week, just after signing a mineral rights deal with a natural gas drilling company." One hundred percent of royalties from sale of the book to be donated in equal

shares to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the SAG Foundation.

FASHION & CELEBRITY



"Dior Glamour," by Mark Shaw, Rizzoli New York, \$115. Shaw was behind the lens at the House of Dior shooting haute couture from 1952 to 1962. Color and black-and-white candids, portraits, commercial spreads and shots of intimate fashion shows for small crowds, conducted in utter silence and without music.



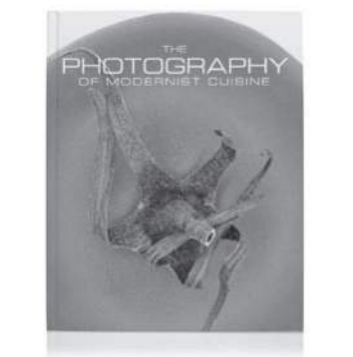
"The Dirty Side of Glamour," by Tyler Shields, HarperCollins, \$25. Celebrities bloodied, naked, on fire and otherwise staged for the unrelenting, Los Angeles-based provocateur. He includes the infamous chainsaw hacking of a \$100,000 Birkin bag, Gary Busey in a straitjacket and never-before-seen work.

"Hollywood Costume," edited by Deborah Nadoolman Landis, Abrams, \$55. Spans the silent era to present day with brief histories, accounts by costume greats like Edith Head and the people they dress. Learn what Johnny Depp thinks about the impact of his costumes on his work, along with Robert De

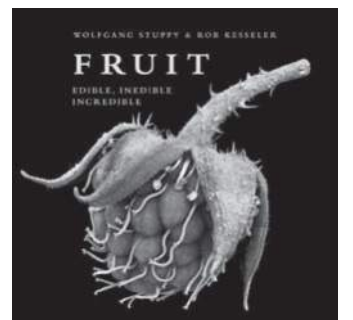


Niro, a collector of the clothes he wears on set.

FOOD



"The Photography of Modernist Cuisine," by Nathan Myhrvold, The Cooking Lab, \$120. Composed dishes levitated to reveal every delectable part. Food bisected in ovens and pots and beautifully scrutinized microscopically. The photo-scientists at The Cooking Lab offer lush, oversized spreads and all their secrets on how the work was done. Not a cookbook.



"Fruit: Edible, Inedible, Incredible," by Wolfgang Stuppy and Rob Kessler, Earth Aware Editions, \$35. Similar microscopic cross-sections focused on fruit, seeds and nature's seed dispersers from the toucan to the fruit bat. Exhaustive scientific text. Stuppy is the seed morphologist for the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership, the international conservation project.

Looking back: The Clash in a (boom) box

NEW YORK (AP)—Ah, the boom box. The portable stereo brings back memories of a specific time in music, when some of the sounds blaring from the speakers included the stew of punk rock, reggae and early hip-hop cooked up by the Clash.

Bass player Paul Simonon designed the group's new box set to look like a boom box. Lift up the cover and you'll find the complete recorded output of the classic Clash lineup—the late Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Simonon and Topper Headon—with outtakes, videos, fanzines,

stickers, a poster and more. The survivors worked a few years to get back control of their music, remaster it and restore the original artwork.

The Clash were leaders of London's punk rock class of 1977, made one of rock's most enduring albums in "London Calling" and soaked up the sounds of the street in hits like "Train in Vain" and "Rock the Casbah." Jones and Headon were fired in 1982 and although replacements were added and another album, "Cut the Crap," released in 1985, that final chap-

ter is ignored in the "Sound System" box.

The balding Jones now looks like a kindly British professor as he sits down to talk about the project. Simonon, who always looked better than he played, is impeccably tailored.

They confide a few myth-puncturing details in an interview with The Associated Press earlier fall: "The Only Band That Matters" declaration was record company hype that they detested, and the band poked fun at their political crusader image in the song "Know Your

Rights," only people took them too seriously to notice.

Before the Clash, Jones went to art school not to learn how to draw, but to meet other musicians. He took a grant given to buy art supplies and bought an amp instead.

It proved to be a good investment.

AP: Were the Clash destined to burn bright and burn out fast?

Simonon: We didn't know it at the time, but I guess so. When we first started, I was surprised that we got through the end of the week, really.

Jones: Nothing was guaranteed. I knew that we worked really hard, nearly every day.

AP: Is it a regret that you ended when you did?

Simonon: We were starting to lose track with Earth because fame and success brings you many things that you're not really prepared for or know how to deal with as a human being. When it does happen, it's very easy to get swallowed up and be taken along with it and become a casualty or lose touch with reality. The fact that we fell apart when we did, sacking everybody, in some ways stopped those potential problems.

AP: Did you make your peace with Joe Strummer before he died (in 2002)?

Jones: It was well before he died. It was just a few months after I left the group that we became friends again.

Simonon: We appeared in Mick's B.A.D. video for "Medicine Show," just to show outwardly that we were friends again.

AP: If he had lived, do you think the Clash would have gotten back together?

Jones: We had opportunities. That's it, really. It didn't happen. It never seemed right.

AP: Why?

Jones: We didn't want to do it.

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—He plays the tough guy in movies but actor Steven Seagal showed his soft side when he “adopted” one of Bucharest’s street dogs.

The dogs have been in the news after a 4-year-old boy was fatally mauled by a stray in August and Parliament passed a law permitting Bucharest’s 64,000 street dogs to be euthanized.

Seagal visited a dog shelter south of Bucharest Sunday and adopted a 7-month-old black and tan puppy in the long-distance adoption program, which costs 60 lei (\$18) a month. The dog will remain at the shelter.

“I am doing the best I can to bring awareness... so that we can make sure these accidents and tragedies don’t happen again,” he said in comments broadcast Monday.

He is currently filming thriller “A Good Man” in Romania.

Steven Seagal ‘adopts’ stray dog in Romania



A picture taken on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013 shows U.S. actor Steven Seagal holding Grivei, a stray dog he adopted from the Dogtown dog shelter in Uzunu, south of Bucharest, Romania.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Obama names actor Kal Penn to arts panel

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says President Barack Obama is appointing actor Kal Penn to be a member of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. The actor’s legal name is Kalpen Modi. He’s best known to film and television audiences for his roles in “Harold and Kumar” and “House.” He’s also no stranger to the White House. Penn worked previously for Obama in the White House’s Office of Public Engagement. He was a major draw last year at the Democratic convention with a good-humored speech asking voters to stay engaged. The actor returned to the White House in July along with singer Jennifer Hudson and actress Amy Poehler to promote Obama’s health care law. Obama made the announcement Monday.

Tired celebs show up in NYC for ‘24 Hour Plays’

NEW YORK (AP)—The stars were out in force on Broadway—and they were frantic. The coffee-fueled benefit performance of “The 24 Hour Plays” was held Monday at the American Airlines Theatre, an annual event in which two dozen actors—this time including Jesse Tyler Ferguson, James McAvoy, Jason Biggs and Zachary Levi—teamed up with six writers and six directors to write and rehearse a half-dozen plays over a single day. The six playwrights include David Lindsay-Abaire, Jonathan Marc Sherman, Lynn Nottage, Theresa Rebeck, Rachel Axler and a sophomore from New York University who won a spot. Some of the other stars who showed up included David Cross, Rachel Dratch, Rosie Perez, Tim Daly, Anthony Mackie, Jordin Sparks, Josh Lucas, Jay Pharoah and Maggie Q.

New video coming for Bob Dylan’s ‘Rolling Stone’

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Dylan’s “Like a Rolling Stone” is getting its first official music video, nearly 50 years after the song was released.

The interactive video will premiere on Dylan’s website Tuesday and marks the release of the new 47-disc box set, “The

Complete Album Collection Volume 1.”

“Like a Rolling Stone” came out in 1965 and remains one of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame singer-songwriter’s most influential songs.

The video will allow viewers to switch between 16 different

story lines that mimic television channels. The actors and hosts on each of these channels lip-sync the lyrics to the song and viewers can move from one to another during the song seamlessly. There is a Dylan channel as well that features vintage footage.

Emerson College to name school after Ron Burgundy

BOSTON (AP)—It’s kind of a big deal that Emerson College is changing the name of its school of communication.

The college in Boston will rename the school—for one day only—the Ron Burgundy School of Communication on Dec. 4 to honor the fictitious television anchorman.

Actor Will Ferrell, in character, is scheduled to share his path to journalism greatness with students. His visit will include a news conference, the renaming ceremony and a screening of “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues.” Ferrell, as himself, will introduce the movie.

College President Lee Pelton

says Burgundy “understands the power of media, as well as hair-spray, firsthand.”

Burgundy, known for telling people he’s “kind of a big deal,” says he hopes to let students know how hard it is to make it to the top, in his words, “especially if you don’t have good hair.”

George Jones monument unveiled at cemetery

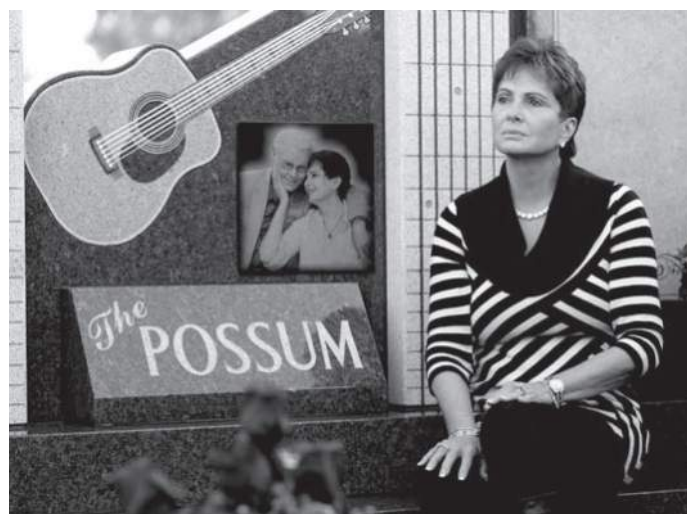
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—A large monument honoring the late country singer George Jones has been unveiled at his Nashville gravesite and his widow has announced a college scholarship in his name.

Fans of the singer who died in April at the age of 81 crowded about the cemetery site on Monday to see the memorial unveiled with his wife and other relatives present.

The monument features a large arch with his best known song title, “He Stopped Loving Her Today,” inscribed in the stone under his name.

It also features images of Jones and his widow, Nancy Jones, a guitar and his nickname, “The Possum.” Two benches are placed on either side of his grave for visiting fans.

“All of his fans are really hardcore country music fans,” his widow said. “I think they



Nancy Jones, widow of country music star George Jones, listens as the Jones Boys band plays as she sits at the memorial unveiled at the late singer’s grave on Monday, Nov. 18, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn.

deserve to come out and see something just a little different. They can sit on the bench and see their idol.”

Nancy Jones told reporters that the singer began the design

for the monument years ago, but it wasn’t complete when he died. She also said that she would be starting a scholarship at Middle Tennessee State University.

Wife hoping for baby wants husband to stop using drugs

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I want to start a family, but until now our circumstances have not made this possible. After a big move and starting a new business, we have decided it’s about time.

My problem is my husband uses drugs to relieve stress. I don’t feel he abuses them; it just takes the edge off after a hard day’s work like a glass of wine does for me sometimes.

I would like him to stop taking the drugs while we are trying to conceive in case it could affect the baby. He is unwilling and it makes me crazy. I have decided that if he can’t do this, he isn’t ready to be a father. On the other hand, he’s a hard worker, and I wonder if by asking him to do this I am being selfish. Please give me some advice.

READY FOR MOTHERHOOD IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR READY FOR MOTHERHOOD: You are NOT being selfish, you are being prudent. According to Dr. June Reinisch, director emerita of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction: “There is some evidence that suggests certain drugs can attach to the sperm and therefore affect the fetus. So the best plan for a healthy baby would be for the man to be as ‘clean’ as possible before he starts to make a child. This is because sperm are produced about three months before they are released.”

■■■

DEAR ABBY: One of my husband’s relatives is filing for bankruptcy for the third time. His wife recently started to receive disability. I believe they are abusing the system.

I know she was not truthful on her disability application. I work in the health care field and in the past have completed evaluations for disability claims. I know the only way she would meet the requirements would be if she misrepresented her current abilities.

Everyone else in the family works hard to support themselves, so I can’t understand how this attitude is tolerated. What has pushed me over the edge is they have announced they’re going to have a “bankruptcy party.” They have invited everyone over to enjoy food and beverages that will be purchased with a credit card they have no intention of paying.

I feel an obligation to alert the disability office to her misrepresentation. My husband agrees that what they’re doing is wrong, but he doesn’t want me to do anything about it. This has caused a problem between us because I no longer want to go to family dinners. I know if I keep going and have to listen to them laugh about using taxpayer dollars to support their laziness, I will eventually explode. What do you think about this?

SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR SOMEWHERE: I think your relatives are committing fraud and that it should be reported. Disability payments were meant for individuals who truly need them, not those who are gaming the system. And if you choose not to associate with these kinds of morally bankrupt individuals, you shouldn’t have to. I can see how it would ruin your appetite. Shenanigans like this should be investigated and the abusers prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Well, here is a new one on me. I was walking through a Macy’s looking for my wife, and right there in front of me was a 40-something woman in her bra trying on a blouse! Please tell me—is this the new normal?

GREG IN GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR GREG: It’s unusual, but not unheard of—particularly if all of the dressing rooms are in use. In order to prevent this from happening again, avert your eyes when you’re in the women’s department.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

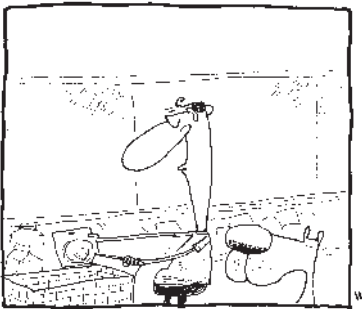
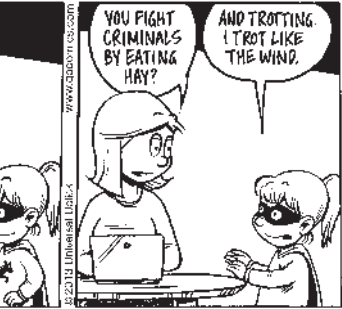
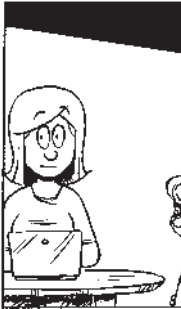


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Angry 44 Vast 46 Target 50 2010 55 Hem's partner 56 Car 57 Neither you nor I 58 Id coun-terpart 59 Deli-loaves 60 Droops 61 More, to Manuela

DOWN 1 Big branch 2 Lotion additive 3 Blueprint 4 Three-somes in charge 5 Abrade 6 Recede 7 "South Park" kid 8 Heckle or Jeckle 9 Geologi-cal period 10 Torched 11 Eastern "way" 17 Doctrine 19 Stick out 22 Rever-berate 23 Thick slices 25 Russian legisla-tive assembly 26 "Phooey!" 27 Bygone times 28 Chooses (for) 29 Pesky kid 30 Diva's piece 31 Within (Pref.) 35 Showbiz flops 38 Universe phenom 40 Sleep game need 45 Perform-ances 47 Throat-clearing sound 48 Sitarist's ren-dition 49 Pairs 50 Skull prop 51 Purchase 52 Con-sumed 53 "Eureka!" 54 Rule, for short

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	U	M	P	T	A	D	A	W	E	B
E	Z	R	A	E	R	O	S	H	U	E
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A	R	T	O	R	E	O	N	O	O	N
Y	E	S	K	A	N	T	S	P	E	D

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Fink, 27; Dan Byrd, 28; Dierks Bentley, 38; Joel McHale, 42.

Happy Birthday: A creative approach to money, legal or medical issues will bring surprisingly excellent results. Focus on the unusual but refrain from feeling pressured to make impulsive moves this year. Methodical, thoughtful plans executed with precision and finesse will help you turn any negative you face into a positive outcome. Past relationships will influence your future. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 21, 29, 36, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let emotions push you over the top. The less said, the better. Channel your energy into work and getting ahead, not what someone else is doing to make your life difficult. Refraining from expressing a reaction that will keep an assailant at arm's length.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A travel destination that promotes cultural differences will be a learning experience. Educational pursuits will enable you to expand your interests as well as use what you have discovered to help you prosper. A property deal or joint venture looks promising.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Embrace change; adaptability is what keeps you in the game. Your ability to multitask along with your unpredictable nature will make it difficult for any opponent you encounter to match your wit, versatility and unique blend of intellect and charm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Easy does it. You need a creative outlet or a way to express your feelings. Impulsive moves

based on an assumption must be avoided; however, sharing your intentions and showing affection will help to improve your love life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your intentions a secret until you have every little detail worked out and you are ready to execute your plans. A premature disclosure will lead to conflict and a series of delays. Reach out to someone who has something to offer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Communication will buy you an invitation to a function that will help you advance personally or professionally. The people you meet or share ideas with today will help contribute to your success. Love is in the stars and romance is highlighted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Step back from a situation that can lead to relationship problems. Listen to complaints but don't attempt to make sense out of what's going on until you have had sufficient time to gather the facts and consider your options.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Gatherings will lead to valuable information. Talk to people who can offer an inside view of a situation you don't understand. Romance will ease your stress and improve your personal life. An unusual change at home will turn out to be beneficial.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Treat relationships with tender, loving care. Anger or using force will get you nowhere. Back away from any situation that has the potential to explode. Focus on home, family and making your personal environment friendly and welcoming.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sign on the dotted line. Whether you are making a personal or business proposal, you have the upper hand. Your insight, coupled with your ability to handle any situation you face, will make transactions easy. Romance is highly suggested.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what's expected of you and keep moving. It won't pay to get into an argument with someone. Whatever change you want to make, do so quickly and without drawing attention to your plans. Avoid an emotional force play.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Implement your ideas and you will receive compliments as well as enthusiasm and whatever assistance you need to complete what you are trying to do. A celebration will turn into a romantic realization that will improve an important relationship.

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, secretive and productive. You are determined and progressive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			5	8	4					
		9				7				
4		7						2		
9		6						4		
1			5					6		
	3					8	1			
			3	7	9	6	8	2		
								7	5	6
								9	1	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	9	2	1	7	5	6	3
3	6	1	9	4	5	8	2	7
2	5	7	8	6	3	4	1	9
7	2	5	4	9	6	1	3	8
4	9	6	3	8	1	7	5	2
1	8	3	7	5	2	6	9	4
9	1	2	5	7	4	3	8	6
5	3	4	6	2	8	9	7	1
6	7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EGYPTIAN TEMPLES

Solution: 7 letters

G	G	N	I	K	A	R	N	A	K	M	G	E	Y	M
O	P	T	D	E	N	D	E	R	A	Y	A	R	C	E
D	E	E	N	C	L	O	S	U	R	E	T	C	E	C
S	G	N	I	R	E	F	F	E	E	E	I	R	N	
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	A	N	M	H	W	R	E	A
S	N	O	L	Y	P	O	M	I	O	A	T	M	D	
T	S	I	R	U	O	T	Y	E	R	U	Y	E	O	I
S	B	M	O	T	S	S	R	S	B	S	R	M	N	U
S	R	S	L	E	T	O	H	A	N	E	A	O	I	G
E	E	I	M	A	G	I	R	I	P	O	U	E		
N	T	I	T	L	P	Q	U	B	R	F	T	G	S	A
I	L	U	Y	U	R	S	U	A	L	R	D	I	N	
R	E	P	W	E	A	L	T	H	Y	I	O	E	X	I
H	H	R	O	X	U	L	H	I	E	F	M	E	A	T
S	S	X	N	I	H	P	S	S	R	E	D	R	O	E

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Axis, Barque, Ceremonies, Deity, Dendera, Enclosure, Eternal, Gateway, Geometric, Gods, Granite, Guidance, Hieroglyphs, Hotels, House of Life, Hub, Karnak, King, Limestone, Luxor, Mortuary, Offerings, Order, Prayer, Pylons, Reed, Rituals, Road, Ruins, Rust, Seti, Shelter, Shrines, Sphinx, Statue, Symmetry, Tombs, Tourist, Wealth, Worship

Yesterday's Answer: Sparkle

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here for the holidays! Purchase online at wonderword.universaljclick.com or call 1-800-642-6463. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/20

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Durant scores 38 as Thunder tops Nuggets



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks knows his team can play from behind. He just doesn't want the Thunder to make a habit of it.

"We're very prideful. We're going to keep fighting to the last possession," Brooks said after watching his team pull out a come-from-behind 115-113 win at home against Denver. "That's always been a trademark but we can't just turn it on the second half. We have to correct that. It's my job to find combinations where guys are going to play with more defensive force."

Kevin Durant scored 38 points, Russell Westbrook had 30 points and 12 rebounds and the Thunder were forced to rally late to win their second straight game.

"It's tough. We can't continue to do that and put pressure on ourselves. We've got to start the game better. Most of that is my fault," Westbrook said.

Oklahoma City's All-Star point guard struggled early hitting just one of his first seven shots and just four of 12 in the first half.

But Westbrook also had seven assists and 11 fourth-quarter points to help Oklahoma City erase a 14-point deficit in the second half. Reggie Jackson added 14 points.

With the score tied at 105, Serge Ibaka pulled down an offensive rebound and found Durant for a 3-pointer that put Oklahoma City (7-3) ahead to stay. Jeremy Lamb and Derek Fisher each hit a pair of free throws in the final 14 seconds to help the Thunder hold on.

"I think Fish was a huge part of that," Brooks said. "You've got to love guys that play with everything they have. I can't say enough about his effort. His effort turned that game around."

Ty Lawson led Denver (4-6) with 29 points and eight assists. J.J. Hickson had 18 points and 19 rebounds.

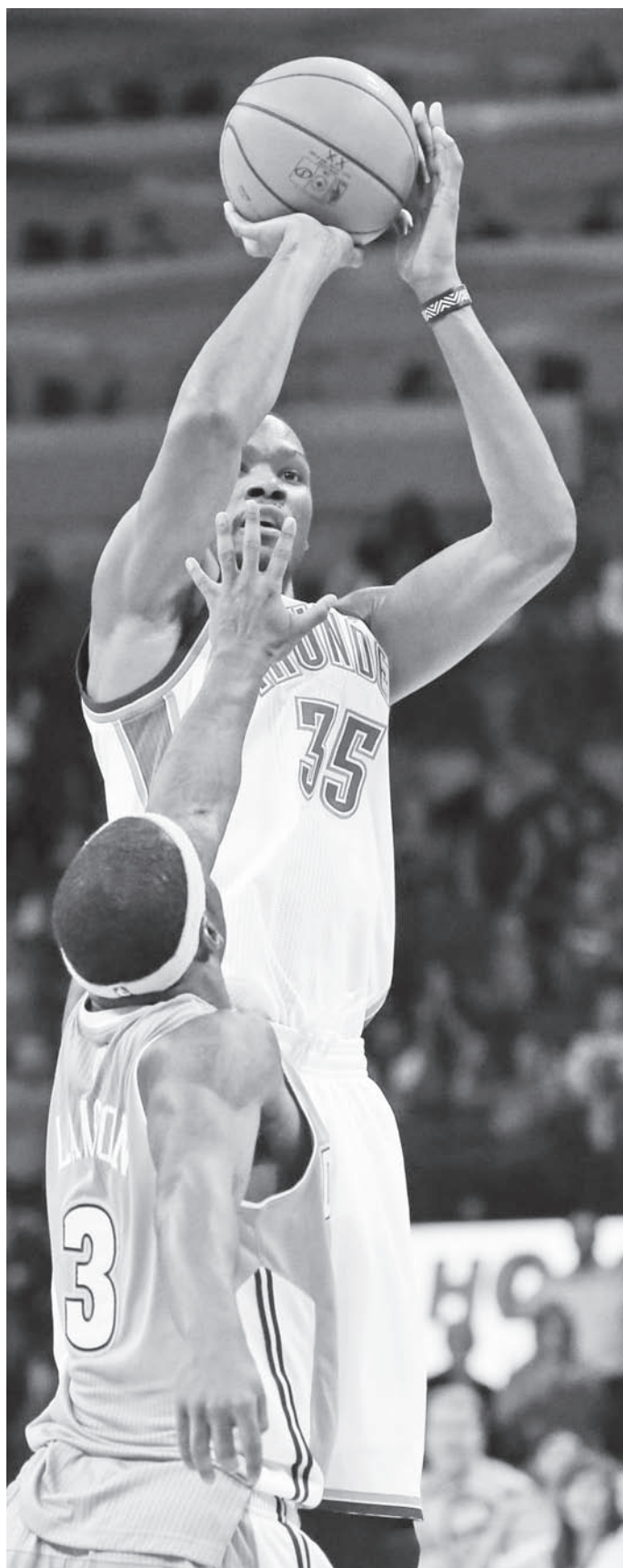
The Nuggets led the entire game except for the first 18 seconds of the first quarter and the final 1:26 of the fourth.

First-year Denver Coach Brian Shaw said his team's outside shooting had been a sore spot coming into the game, but the Nuggets connected on four of their first seven 3-point attempts. Denver shot 59 percent from the field while grabbing a 39-28 lead after the first quarter.

Oklahoma City then began the second quarter with a 10-2 run, but reserve Nate Robinson gave the Nuggets a lift with eight points that helped them to a 13-point lead.

After hitting just one shot in the first quarter, Westbrook scored eight points in the second. Westbrook's 25-footer with a second remaining in the half cut Denver's lead to three.

Denver increased its lead



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Denver Nuggets guard Ty Lawson (3) in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Nov. 18, 2013.

to 14 in the third quarter but watched it evaporate as Oklahoma City rallied for its second straight win.

Grizzlies 106, Clippers 102

In Los Angeles, Zach Randolph had 26 points and 15 rebounds against his former team as the Memphis Grizzlies overcame the first-quarter ejection of shooting guard Tony Allen to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-102 on Monday in a rematch of their first-round playoff series.

Marc Gasol had 23 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to help put the Grizzlies (6-5) over .500 for the first time this season. Mike Conley scored eight of his 15 points during a 4-minute span of the fourth quarter.

Blake Griffin had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Clip-

pers. Paul had 18 points and 11 assists for his 11 straight double-double, the most by any player from the start of a season since Magic Johnson in 1990-91.

Allen was charged with a flagrant-2 foul with 1:51 left in the opening quarter after he lifted his left leg in a vain attempt to impede Paul's drive to the basket and kicked him in the face. Allen walked over to Paul at the foul line to apologize while referees Bill Kennedy, Mark Ayotte and John Goble watched the replay at the official scorer's table to determine the severity of the foul.

Trail Blazers 108, Nets 98

In New York, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points, Wesley Matthews added 24 as Portland earned its seventh straight victory.

Kobe cleared to resume basketball activities

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant has been medically cleared to resume basketball activities.

The Los Angeles Lakers tweeted out the news on Monday, when the team had a day off.

It's another step in Bryant's comeback after he tore his left Achilles tendon seven months ago.

Bryant returned to practice over the weekend, doing some drills with his teammates.

A team spokesman says there's no timetable for Bryant to play in a game.

The Lakers are 5-7 and have lurched between a few surprising wins, most notably against the Los Angeles Clippers and Houston Rockets, and several disappointing losses, where they suffered due to the lack of a dominating presence in the final quarter.

Bryant is widely regarded as one of the greatest closers in the game and his teammates are eagerly awaiting the return of the 'Black Mamba,' who has been sidelined since mid-April with a torn left Achilles' tendon.

"He's so intelligent that he helps guys get in the right spots and makes the game a lot easier not only for myself but for the whole team," backup shooting guard Jodie Meeks told reporters.

"He's been in the league for almost 20 years, he knows it all inside and out. He's the alpha dog. He tells everybody

where to go, gets everyone in the right spots and gives everyone confidence."

Bryant was given full medical clearance to resume all basketball activities over the weekend and the 35-year-old certainly gave his teammates a welcome boost when he joined them on Saturday for several practice drills.

However, Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni has urged caution, and does not want to see his star player rushed back into action.

"Everybody's excited and I'm sure he's excited, but (it's) a little bit premature right now," D'Antoni told reporters on Sunday about Bryant's participation in 5-on-0 drills and half-court work.

"You're dealing with, 'Is he sore today? Is there a setback tomorrow?' That's the first step and there's a lot of steps to be taken. We need to be cautious."

Though several backup Lakers players such as Meeks, Jordan Hill, Xavier Henry and Nick Young have all flourished at times this season, D'Antoni knows the team have badly missed the steel, late points and sheer grit provided by Bryant.

"He's a presence, no doubt, and we need that presence, especially at the end of games," D'Antoni said of the Lakers, who are 5-7 this season and occupy 12th place in the 15-team Western Conference.

"But we've got games to win and there's going to be

a bunch of them before he comes back, so we're going to have to do our business."

Bryant, a five-time NBA champion, may be well short of game fitness at the moment but he certainly impressed his teammates with his practice form over the weekend.

"He looked real good," Hill said of Bryant, after pouring in a career-high 24 points and 17 rebounds in the Lakers' 114-99 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

"He was going real hard. I thought he wasn't going to be able to go that hard but he was really pushing it. I know he's not ready yet but he's coming along and he should be ready pretty soon."

Spanish forward Pau Gasol agreed.

"He looked good and did a few moves I didn't expect him to do right away," said Gasol. "I'm very happy for him and for us, and definitely looking forward to when he'll play in a game."

As for Bryant, he was happy enough with his overall shape during the drills.

"The fade-away still works, the ball-handling and being able to post," he told NBA TV. "Those are things that I can do right now. But it's not the playoffs, thank God."

The Lakers, whose next game is against the Golden State Warriors in Los Angeles on Friday, have not yet laid out a timetable for the likely return of their most influential player.

Damian Lillard finished with 19 points and nine assists as the Trail Blazers withstood the Nets' blistering start to win seven in a row in the same season for the first time since a 13-game run in December 2007.

Portland (9-2) is just a half-game behind San Antonio and Indiana for the NBA's best record. The Blazers will try to complete a perfect 4-0 road trip Wednesday at Milwaukee.

Shaun Livingston scored 23 points for the Nets, who stormed out to their best first quarter of the season and then seemed to run out of gas against the younger Trail Blazers. Kevin Garnett made all six shots in the 40-point first period, then went 2 for 13 from there to finish with a season-high 16 points.

Bulls 86, Bobcats 81

In Chicago, Luol Deng scored 21 points as the Bulls overcame a rough shooting night to record their fifth straight win.

Carlos Boozer had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, which is on its longest winning streak since taking eight in a row from Feb. 20-March 7, 2012. Jimmy Butler had 14 points and Derrick Rose finished with 12.

Deng's 3-pointer with 27.1

seconds remaining gave the Bulls an 85-81 lead. Gerald Henderson then missed for the Bobcats, and Rose had a free throw to help Chicago wrap it up.

Rose, who hit a career-high six 3-pointers in the Bulls' 110-94 win Saturday over Indiana, went 4 for 13 from the field. The Bulls shot 27 of 75 (36 percent) overall.

Jeffery Taylor led Charlotte with a career-high 20 points and Henderson had 16.

Mavericks 97, 76ers 94

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 24 points, including 13 in the third quarter when Dallas took its first lead.

Dirk Nowitzki and Shawn Marion had 20 points apiece for the Mavericks, who began a stretch of seven of nine games in Dallas. Nowitzki had 10 rebounds, and Marion chipped in seven.

Ellis had 19 points in the second half and added a game-high 10 assists and two of Dallas' 11 blocked shots.

Two nights after a 35-point loss in New Orleans, the Sixers held the Mavericks scoreless for the first 5 minutes and led by 10 in the first half.

Even after losing its lead for

good late in the third quarter, Philadelphia stayed close behind Evan Turner, Tony Wroten and some late 3-pointers from James Anderson.

Turner had 26 points, nine rebounds and seven assists while Wroten had 19 points and five steals.

Warriors 98, Jazz 87

In Salt Lake City, Stephen Curry scored 22 points for Golden State, and Klay Thompson and Harrison Barnes had 17 apiece in the Warriors' victory.

Curry had eight assists and made four 3-pointers before leaving in the fourth quarter after Utah's Marvin Williams landed on his head in a scramble for a loose ball. After a couple of minutes to gain his bearings, Curry got up and left the court under his own power with a towel draped over his head.

Curry is expected to be ready for Wednesday's home game against Memphis.

The Warriors made 12 of 22 attempts from 3-point range and led by as many as 28 points.

Gordon Hayward scored 18 points and Williams had 16 but the Jazz (1-11) dropped their third straight after earning their lone win of the season.

Panthers beat Patriots in disputed finish, 24-20



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—As “Sweet Caroline” pumped through the stadium and playoff-starved Panthers fans dressed all in black celebrated a big victory, Tom Brady ran after an official in search of an explanation.

Thrilling game, bizarre ending.

Brady and the Patriots were miffed after a penalty flag that was thrown in the end zone on the final play was suddenly picked up and waved off Monday night, giving the Carolina Panthers a 24-20 victory over New England for their sixth straight win.

Cam Newton led the Panthers 83 yards on 13 plays and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Ted Ginn Jr. with 59 seconds left to give the Panthers the lead.

The Patriots had a chance at an improbable comeback when Brady moved New England to the Carolina 18 with 3 seconds left and fired into the end zone as time expired. Rookie safety Robert Lester intercepted the pass, but an official at the back of the end zone threw a flag for pass interference on linebacker Luke Kuechly, who had both arms wrapped around tight end Rob Gronkowski.

The officials then gathered, however, and referee Clete Blakeman announced there was no foul on the play and the game was over.

“There was no explanation given to me. Officials ran off the field. I didn’t see anything,” Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. “There was a flag thrown and then the game was over.”

Blakeman said after the game that back judge Terrence Miles saw there was contact and Kuechly was not playing the ball, and that initially led Miles to call defensive pass interference. But Blakeman said the officials met and decided the ball was “underthrown” and it came down to a matter of “uncatchability.”

A pass-interference call would have put the ball on the 1-yard line and given the Patriots one more shot at a game-winning touchdown with no time on the clock.

“You never like to end the

game like that on a call but I’m pleased that our officiating crew got together and communicated and discussed it and ultimately we believe we got it right,” Blakeman said.

An angry Brady ran down two officials to argue the call as they walked off the field, but later said he didn’t get a good look at the play.

“I don’t make the calls or the rules,” Brady said. “I wish it wouldn’t have come down to that. I think there were plenty of plays we could’ve made. But it did, and they’re going to make the call or they’re not going to make the call. But we can play better than that.”

Brady conceded he was cautious on the throw.

“(Gronkowski) was kind of weaving in and out of there. I didn’t really want to throw it over his head and out of bounds, so I was a little indecisive,” he said. “It wasn’t a great throw. No excuses. Should have been a better throw.”

Kuechly, who had a critical pass-interference call in a Week 2 loss to Buffalo, was a little nervous when he saw the flag on the ground.

“I was like, ‘Oh, jeez. I don’t know what this is going to be,’” Kuechly said. “My back was to Brady. I was just playing his eyes, playing his hands, waiting for his eyes to get big and his hands to go up and I was going to try to break it down. I didn’t really see where the ball went. I think Robert had a hand on it or something. There were guys around that ball and that’s what helps you out.”

Given a reprieve, the Panthers (7-3) celebrated.

Brady finished 29 of 40 for 296 yards and one touchdown. Newton completed 19 of 28 passes for 209 yards and three touchdowns. He also ran seven times for 62 yards in what will go down as one of his best games a pro.

After the game, Carolina coach Ron Rivera called it a “gutsy effort.”

Newton’s winning touchdown drive in the waning minutes of a game was the type of leadership performance the Panthers have been waiting for from the third-year pro.



New England Patriots' Kyle Arrington, top, knocks the ball from Carolina Panthers' Ted Ginn, bottom, during the first half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Nov. 18, 2013.

NFL investigator meets with Dolphins players

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—The Miami Dolphins underwent interrogation Monday by an NFL special investigator, although they had already addressed one pressing question: Would they fold on the season?

Answer: No.

New York attorney Ted Wells began interviewing players regarding the harassment case involving tackle Jonathan Martin and suspended guard Richie Incognito. Wells’ visit was expected to last at least two or three days, ensuring further distractions for a team trying to keep its season from derailing.

A defeat Sunday would have accelerated the Dolphins’ recent tailspin. Instead they beat San Diego 20-16 to improve to 5-5 and remain in the race for an AFC wild-card berth.

“It’s going to come down to a tight finish, and we have to win,” quarterback Ryan Tannehill said. “We want to win all the rest of our games.”

The Dolphins will try to do so while ensnared in the biggest scandal in franchise history. Martin left the team three weeks ago and alleges he was harassed daily by teammates, including Incognito.

On Friday, Martin spent nearly seven hours talking with Wells. Before the attorney began his interviews with other players, he released a statement - his first public comments about the investigation.

“We look forward to meeting with Dolphins players, coaches and staff in order to get the facts and prepare a thorough and fair report,” Wells said. “The Dolphins or-

ganization has been very helpful in arranging the interviews and urging their personnel to cooperate with the investigation. We have asked all Dolphins personnel to respect the process and avoid commenting on the investigation.”

Wells was appointed Nov. 6 by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to investigate the Dolphins’ workplace and prepare a report that will be made public.

“As we’ve said from Day One, we’re going to fully cooperate,” coach Joe Philbin said.

Offensive coordinator Mike Sherman said he was among those scheduled to talk Tuesday with Wells, after players had been interviewed.

“Hopefully most of what the players have to do will be taken care of today,” Sherman said.

Newton said “people want to keep making it about me and the plays that I made, but it’s not a one-man show, by far.”

It just seemed that way.

He was 5 of 8 for 57 yards and ran twice for 18 yards on the go-ahead drive.

Panthers wide receiver Steve Smith, who had 62 yards on four catches, said Newton came of age Monday night.

“It’s just fantastic, just watching Cam grow, watching him lead this team, watching him go 85 yards,” Smith said. “You hear all about statistics, about other guys having game-winning drives. Now Cam has his game-winning drive against a big team, against a worthy opponent. Just watching the young man grow—I just saw that young, 24-year old Cam Newton just chipping away and just a little hint of greatness is starting to shine through a little bit.”

Carolina moved within a game of first-place New Orleans in the NFC South. The win came eight days after a 10-9 victory over reigning NFC champion San Francisco.

The Panthers entered the fourth quarter with a 17-10 lead, but Stevan Ridley made up for an earlier fumble with a 1-yard touchdown run and the Patriots (7-3) took a 20-17 lead with 6:32 left when Stephen Gostkowski slipped a 26-yard field goal just inside the left upright.

Carolina came right back down the field and Newton hit the speedy Ginn on a hitch route. Ginn escaped Kyle Arrington along the left sideline and outraced Logan Ryan to the left pylon for his third touchdown of the season.

Newton gave Carolina a 17-10 lead in the third quarter on an 81-yard touchdown drive that took more than 8 minutes off the clock and featured a scramble in which the third-year quarterback avoided four tacklers and turned a potential 20-yard sack into a 14-yard gain and a first down.

Newton completed all seven passes on the drive for 77 yards, finding Greg Olsen at the right pylon with 2:10 left to put the Panthers back in front.

A-Rod grievance resumes after month long break



NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez’s grievance hearing to overturn his 211-game suspension resumed Monday with the first of what could be 10 straight days of sessions.

The sides spent their ninth day before arbitrator Fredric Horowitz, who also heard the case from Sept. 30-Oct. 3 and Oct. 15-18. Rodriguez’s legal team was set to call witnesses when the hearing resumed.

MLB and the players’ association appear to be trying to finish testimony before Thanksgiving, and it remained unclear whether the New York Yankees third baseman would testify. He had been scheduled for an investigatory interview with MLB on Friday, but the session was canceled when Rodriguez’s side said he was ill with flu-like systems and could not travel from California.

Rodriguez arrived at MLB’s office on Monday morning.

MLB has been expected to

assert that Rodriguez should not be allowed to testify at his grievance if he first refused to answer MLB’s questions at the investigatory interview.

Rodriguez was suspended for 211 games by MLB on Aug. 5 for alleged violations of the sport’s drug agreement and labor contract, and the players’ association filed the grievance to overturn the penalty.

The three-time AL MVP said four years ago he used performance-enhancing drugs while

with the Texas Rangers from 2001-03, but he has denied using them since. At the time of his suspension, MLB said the penalty was for “use and possession of numerous forms of prohibited performance-enhancing substances, including testosterone and human growth hormone over the course of multiple years” and for “engaging in a course of conduct intended to obstruct and frustrate the office of the commissioner’s investigation.”

A Florida police department said Monday it had reopened an investigation into the theft of documents related to baseball’s inquiry.

Boca Raton police officer Sandra Boonenberg said the investigation was reopened several weeks ago based on new information stemming from Rodriguez’s lawsuit against MLB, which accused the sport of engaging in a “witch hunt.”

Boonenberg offered few details on the open investigation but said detectives have “a lot of leads that they’re pursuing.”

The documents were stolen

in March from the car of Porter Fischer, who took them from Biogenesis of America, the now-closed Florida anti-aging clinic where he worked.

The clinic and its owner, Anthony Bosch, have been accused of providing banned performance-enhancing drugs to Rodriguez and other major leaguers. Bosch agreed to cooperate with baseball’s investigators, and baseball later suspended 14 players.

Citing unidentified sources close to the investigation, ESPN reported last week that MLB impeded the Florida investigation.

I Love Saipan keeps playoffs hopes alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

I Love Saipan remained in contention for a playoff berth in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League, following an 86-53 rout of Island Manpower last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

I Love Saipan now has a 2-4 record for sixth place in the team standings in Pool B with one more game left in the regular season. Only the Top 6 teams after the round-robin play will advance to the playoffs with the Top 2 gaining automatic quarterfinals berth and the No. 3 to 6 finishers battling for the remaining Round of 8 berths. I Love Saipan is ahead of Maplas and Island Manpower, which have similar 1-5 slates for the last two spots in the team standings. Completing Pool B are Island Floral (4-0), San Antonio (3-0), CJ Signs (3-1), Natural Mystic (4-2), and San Roque (2-2).

The I Love Saipan-Island Manpower tiff was played in the first game with the latter missing key players in the first half, allowing the former to take a big lead at the break. Island Manpower was without Ivan Devero in the entire game and started the match with only five players before three more came in the second half.

The second half ended with I Love Saipan way ahead, 36-20. Mike Olaitiman led I Love Saipan in the first half and drew enough help from his teammates to break the game wide open en route to their second win. Olaitiman finished with a game-high 26

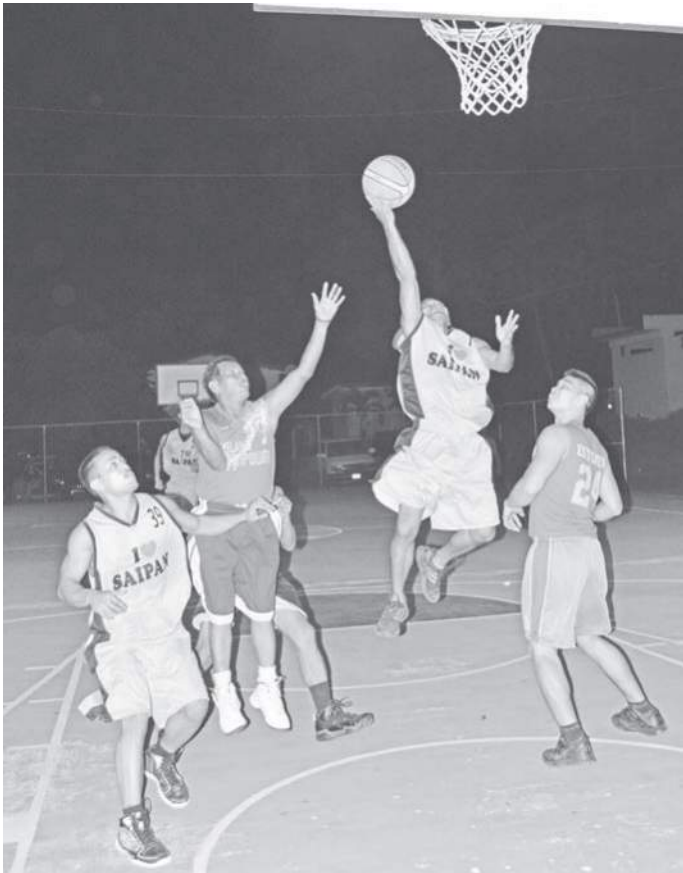
Coaches meeting for softball tourney today

Coaches of teams participating in a fundraising softball tournament for Saipan Little League are requested to attend a meeting today at 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The fundraiser will run this weekend and games will be played at the Capital Hill Ballfield. Only the first 12 teams to register and pay the full entrance fee (\$100) will be allowed to play. The tournament will use a modified co-ed format that requires 2 female members of each team playing at all times. Each squad automatically has 3 home runs per game, but may opt to buy additional home runs at \$5 each unlimited. Only players in the 14 and over age group may participate in this tournament. Also, the tournament committee may throw in a home run derby pending interests from teams at the coaches' meeting.

For more information, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 989-3600. (PR)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

I Love Saipan's Mike Olaitiman drives against Island Manpower's Gary Esconde, second left, and Chris Esteves, right, during the first quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

points, while four of his teammates also contributed twin digits. Brian Mendoza chipped in 14, Bryan Lontoc had 12,

and Derrick Manglona and Gyles Ruluked added 11 and 10, respectively. John Capuyon Jr. paced Island Manpower with



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	5	7	.417	—
Toronto	4	7	.364	½
Boston	4	7	.364	½
New York	3	6	.333	½
Brooklyn	3	7	.300	1

Southeast Division

Miami	7	3	.700	—
Atlanta	6	4	.600	1
Charlotte	5	6	.455	2½
Orlando	4	6	.400	3
Washington	2	7	.222	4½

Central Division

Indiana	9	1	.900	—
Chicago	6	3	.667	2½
Cleveland	4	7	.364	5½
Detroit	3	6	.333	5½
Milwaukee	2	7	.222	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	9	1	.900	—
Houston	7	4	.636	2½
Dallas	7	4	.636	2½
Memphis	6	5	.545	3½
New Orleans	4	6	.400	5

Northwest Division

Portland	9	2	.818	—
Oklahoma City	7	3	.700	1½
Minnesota	7	4	.636	2
Denver	4	6	.400	4½
Utah	1	11	.083	8½

Pacific Division

Golden State	8	3	.727	—
L.A. Clippers	7	4	.636	1
Phoenix	5	4	.556	2
L.A. Lakers	5	7	.417	3½
Sacramento	2	7	.222	5

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	3	0	.700	256	199
N.Y. Jets	5	5	0	.500	183	268
Miami	5	5	0	.500	213	225
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	236	273

South

Indianapolis	7	3	0	.700	252	220
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	227	226
Houston	2	8	0	.200	193	276
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	129	318

North

Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	275	206
Pittsburgh	4	6	0	.400	216	245
Baltimore	4	6	0	.400	208	212
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	192	238

West

Denver	9	1	0	.900	398	255
Kansas City	9	1	0	.900	232	138
Oakland	4	6	0	.400	194	246
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	228	222

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East

Philadelphia	6	5	0	.545	276	260
Dallas	5	5	0	.500	274	258
N.Y. Giants	4	6	0	.400	192	256
Washington	3	7	0	.300	246	311

South

New Orleans	8	2	0	.800	288	183
Carolina	7	3	0	.700	238	137
Tampa Bay	2	8	0	.200	187	237
Atlanta	2	8	0	.200	214	292

North

Detroit	6	4	0	.600	265	253
Chicago	6	4	0	.600	282	267
Green Bay	5	5	0	.500	258	239
Minnesota	2	8	0	.200	240	320

West

Seattle	10	1	0	.909	306	179
San Francisco	6	4	0	.600	247	178
Arizona	6	4	0	.600	214	212
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	224	234

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

his 22 markers.

Docomo 69, Adobo 67

In the second game, Docomo eked out a 2-point win over defending champion Adobo.

Behind by 11 at the end of the third canto, 47-58, Docomo held Adobo to 9 points in the pivotal fourth to improve to a 4-1 record and take the solo lead in Pool A.

James Villacrusis anchored Docomo's recovery early in the fourth quarter, while Rolly Paraiso and Juan Camacho delivered the clutch baskets in the end. Villacrusis fired 8 points in the playoff period, including 6 straight markers in the opening

half of that frame, while Paraiso also scored in succession (4 points), and Camacho made Docomo's last basket.

Adobo (2-3) fell apart in the fourth after connecting only four field goals. Only Lester Vertudez canned more than 2 points for the defending champion in the fourth-quarter meltdown, as Genesis Mamaril and Emerson Fera, who had 12 and 10 points at the end of the third, were scoreless in the final period.

First Game

I Love Saipan 86 – Olaitiman 26, Mendoza 14, Lontoc

12, Manglona 11, Ruluked 10, Cristobal 8, Rabago 1.

Island Manpower 53 – Capuyon Jr. 22, Esteves 11, Rebuyon 6, Esconde 3, Espinosa 3, Capuyon Sr. 3, Jacob 2, Gonzales 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 36-20, 63-39, 86-53.

Second Game

Docomo 69 – Villacrusis 26, Paraiso 12, Sanciangco 9, Camacho 7, McCain 5, Gomez 4.

Adobo 67 – Vertudez 22, Mamaril 12, Fera 10, Palacios 9, Yap 6, Tadifa 6.

Scoring by quarters: 16-15, 31-38, 47-58, 69-67.



GUAM

From Page 28

Despite losing in the men's 4.0 doubles, Sam Lai still went home with a championship plaque, as he teamed up with brother David Lai in winning the men's over 40 title. The Laïs secured the championship after sweeping Saipan's Jorge Olanda and Buboy Sergio, 6-3, 6-0. Before their finals win, the Lai siblings first rallied past Nicky Nichols and Don Dunlop in the quarterfinals, 2-6, 6-1, 11-9, and ousted Gary Ramsey and Ken Imapa in the upper bracket semis, 6-1, 6-4. Olanda and Sergio got a free semis entry after winning by default over Yu and Benson Au-Yeung and earlier bagged a 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinals victory over Ken Kalen and Castillo.

In the men's open doubles finals, Guam's Luke Beling partnered with CNMI coach Jeff Race and the duo dominated junior players Tommy Choi and

Amami Sakano, 6-0, 6-3. Sakano and Choi advanced to the finals after prevailing over Lope Padilla and Ronnie Lacbayo, while Race and Beling topped Moris Villanueva and Seiya Eda in the other semis pairing.

Beling also played in the mixed open doubles, joining forces with Thea Minor in ruling the round-robin event. Minor and Beling triumphed over Guam's Michelle Phan and Au-Yeung, 6-2, 6-1, and Carol Lee and Lauro Lim, 6-0, 6-4. Phan and Au-Yeung took the runner-up honors after slipping past Lee and Lim, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).

Three other mixed doubles events were featured in the final week of the competition with Theecele Minor and Imapa, Conatsu Kaga and Reo Arriola, and David Lai and Lydia Tan ruling their respective divisions.

Lai and Tan reigned supreme in the mixed 40 and above doubles after winning over Nichols and Tisha Ferrer in the semis, 6-0, 6-1, and versus Marivic Rosario and Dunlop in the finals, 6-3, 6-7

JERICHO

From Page 28

ond stringer, or a reserve, as long as I'm wearing the Philippine tricolors."

With his stint in the Sinag Pilipinas, playing in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) is the only dream that Cruz needs to fulfill. The shifty guard, who was picked third in the second round by reigning PBA Developmental League Foundation Cup cham-

pion Blackwater Sports Elite during the first rookie draft last September, added he needs to work doubly hard to make it to the pro league.

"Since my national team dream already came true, I got one more to go which is the PBA. My ultimate dream is the PBA. I will work my butts off to get into the PBA. I want to thank the Lord for giving me great blessings and to my family and friends on Saipan for the contin-

(7-5), 6-3. Rosario and Dunlop marched into the finals after a 3-6, 6-3, 2-0 (retired) win against Sally Lee and George Lai.

Kaga and Arriola clinched the mixed 3.0 doubles championship after sweeping Wu and Shintani, 6-2, 6-3. The eventual champions first came from a tough semis win over Merle Hudkins and G. Law, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, to book the finals berth in the upper bracket. In the lower bracket, Wu and Shintani made it to the finals after a 6-4, 6-1 win over junior players Catherine Atalig and Vincent Tudela.

In the mixed 4.0 doubles, Theecele Minor and Imapa beat Jim and Mihoko Tuttle, 6-2, 6-3, and Maro de la Torre and Poquiz, 6-3, 6-3, to top the three-team field. The Tuttles finished second after a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Poquiz and de la Torre.

Meanwhile, results in the men's singles and the remaining men's doubles events will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

ued support," added Cruz, who averaged 15 points per game in Blackwater's first three matches in the D-League.

The Philippines is the reigning men's basketball champion in the SEA Games and this year's team will be under head coach Jong Uichico and assistants Nash Racela and Josh Reyes. The biennial meet will run from Dec. 11 to 22, with 10 other countries competing against the Philippines.

KOREAN

From Page 28

Manalo (76), Joseph Sablan Jr. (77), Jeff Taylor (77), Tsukasa Kuribayashi (77), Joung Hoon Park (78), Jun Suk Kim (79), Jin Shi Feng (80), Rene Batallones (80), Enoch Lim (81), William Retardo (81), Michael Sablan (81), Freddie Cataluna (82), Gi Yeong Kim (90), Thomson Palik (91), Juan Diaz (96), and Alex Sablan (99).

In the B Flight, Sung Nam Park lorded it over against 28 other golfers. Park nailed a 5-over par 77 to win by five shots against Kim Kyu Yeon and Feng Chun Jin, who had identical gross scores of 82. Yeon went

on to beat Jin in the scorecards playoffs to take the No. 2 spot.

In the C Flight, which drew the most participants with 42, Frank P. Rosario shot a 10-over par 82 to win the division. Dong Young Lee claimed the runner-up honors after edging Noh Sung Kwang by only one stroke, as the former drilled an 85 against the latter's 86. Kwang took the No. 3 spot, as he also prevailed by only one shot against John Antenor-cruz (87).

In the Seniors Flight, the winner was decided by only one stroke, too. Toshiyuki Mori carded a 5-over par 77 to edge the 6-over par 78 of Federico Flores. Alex Tudela completed the Top 3 after registering a 7-over par

79. Eleven other golfers joined the Seniors Flight.

In the Ladies Flight, which implemented a net score format, Shiori Onoue topped the 13-player field. Onoue recorded a gross 87 and deducting her 21.6 handicap, she ended up with a net 65.4 to finish way ahead of Kim Jung Yoon (70.2) and Matilde Hocog (70.4). Yoon tallied the lowest gross in the Ladies Flight with her 75, but she was also among the three golfers (mother and daughter Noriko and Yuko Togawa were the two others) with the lowest handicap (4.8) and had to settle for the runner-up honors. Hocog shared Onoue's handicap and posted a gross 92.

20th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Swimmers plunge into the pool during the 200m freestyle race in the 20th Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swimming Championships held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool this month.



A swimmer gasps for air during the 100m freestyle race.



Whispering Palms' Blake Mister does the backstroke leg of the mixed 200m medley relay.



Grace Christian Academy swimmers and their supporter and coach pose for a photo after the race.



Swimmers wait for their turn in the mixed 200m medley relay.



Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Miku Tammy gets ready for the butterfly leg of the mixed 200m medley relay.



A swimmer does the butterfly stroke in a mixed 200m medley relay.



Two swimmers race in the 50m backstroke.



Grace Christian Academy's Angel Marie Tan and Kensuke Kimura lines up for the mixed 200m medley relay.



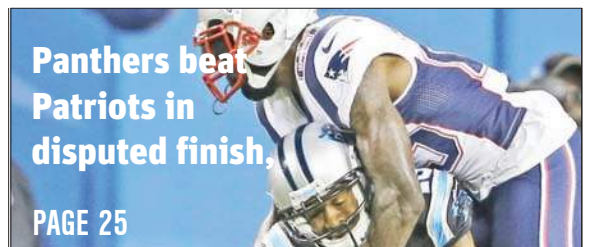
A swimmer does the breaststroke leg of the elementary division's mixed 200m medley relay.



**Durant scores 38
as Thunder tops
Nuggets**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Panthers beat
Patriots in
disputed finish**

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28 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Guam players bring home doubles titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Guam players completed their participation in the 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic 2013 over the weekend and returned home with five doubles championships.

Leading the list of Guam players who recorded title wins in the second and final week of annual tournament were Eun Jang and George Lai. The duo topped the men's 4.0 doubles after prevailing in the all-Guam finals against Sam Lai and Eddie Wu, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2, last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. George Lai and Jang were seeded second in the division and notched two victories to make it to the finals. The eventual winners first defeated junior players Luther Lizama

and Colin Ramsey, 6-2, 6-1, and then downed Roy Banados and Ernie Henson, 6-0, 6-2, in the lower bracket semis.

In the upper bracket, Wu and Sam Lai beat Ronnie Lachayo and Don Castillo, 6-2, 6-4, to arrange a semis tiff against Michael Ren and George Poquiz, a 6-4, 6-3 winner versus Noel Biglete and Diony Peralta. Another straight set win against Ren and Poquiz, 6-1, 6-3, moved the top-ranked Wu and Sam Lai to the title game.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

George Lai makes a return from the backcourt, while Eun Jang gets ready near the net during their men's 4.0 doubles title game against Eddie Wu and Sam Lai in the 5th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Jericho makes it to PH Team

BY JON PEREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jericho Cruz earned a spot to the Philippines' 12-member national team that will compete in the 27th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Myanmar next month.

This will be Cruz's second tour of duty for a national team, as he also represented the CNMI, the home country of his stepfather, in Oceania tournaments and in the Micronesian Games.

Cruz started playing basketball at the open court of Garapan, suited up for various local teams on Saipan and for Marianas High School in the MISO league before moving to the Philippines, his mother's birth country, to try his luck in the collegiate league.

He began his collegiate career with perennial title contender Rizal Technological University in the University and Colleges Athletic Association before being spotted by Adamson mentor Leo Austria, who recruited him to play for the Soaring Falcons in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines last year. Cruz was among the top



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jericho Cruz, right, poses with fellow Philippine Team player Kevin Ferrer, left, and practice player Troy Rosario during a break in their training session recently.

scorers for the Soaring Falcons and after the UAAP season concluded this year, he was one of the amateur players invited to

try out for the PH Team.

"I'm truly blessed right now. Not all the players are given this kind of opportunity that's why

I'm really thankful that I'm part of the team," said Cruz. "I don't mind even if I'm a starter, a second

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Korean golfer leads Hyatt Classic winners



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Flight winner Geon Ju Lee, center, poses with Hyatt Regency Saipan's Blake Carothers, right, and Ben Babauta Jr. during the awards ceremony for the 18th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic Tournament at the Hyatt poolside last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Korean Geon Ju Lee topped the A Flight of the 18th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic Tournament held on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Saturday.

Lee carded a 1-under par 71 in the weekend tournament for a two-stroke win over junior golfer Sean Lee, who fired a 1-over par 73. Chae Son Yi rounded out the Top 3 after shooting a 3-over par 75. The

former junior golfer, who started playing on Saipan in 2010, was the lone player in the field (128) to record an under par. Lee's victory in the Hyatt Golf Classic also ended his tough luck in the past months where he missed first place finishes in the Tournament of Champions (August) and Joeten Golf Classic (October).

Joining Geon Jun Lee, Sean Lee, and Yi in the A Flight were 17 other players. The list includes Peter Tenorio (76), Rob

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